



National Mission for Manuscripts

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Report of the Fourth Year
7 February 2006 – 7 February 2007

Cover Image:

Folio from *Chitra Bhagawat*, Sanchipat manuscript, from the collection of Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam

Published by:

National Mission for Manuscripts
No. 5, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi 110 001

Design by:

Alpana Khare Graphic Design

Printed by:

info@azurepress.in

National Mission for Manuscripts
is an undertaking of the
Ministry of Tourism and Culture,
Government of India.

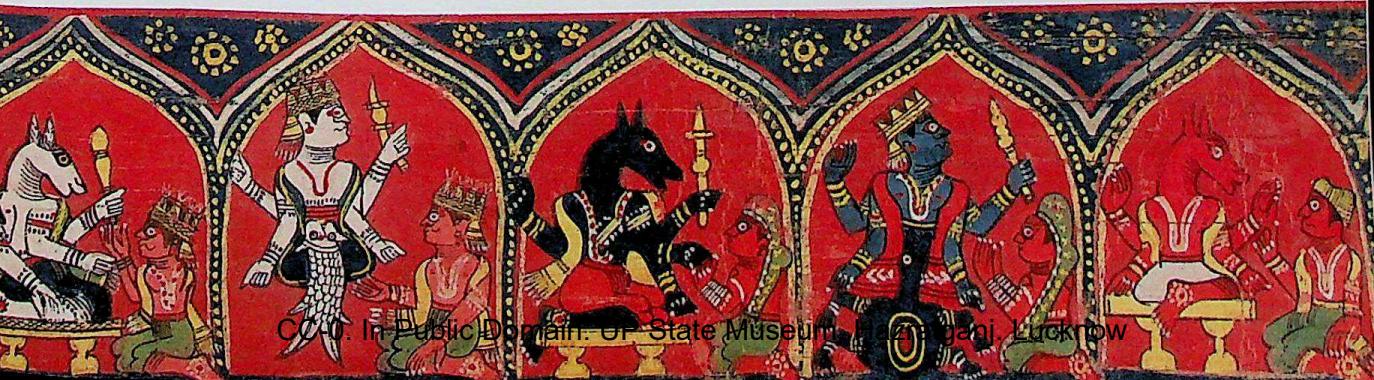


National Mission for Manuscripts

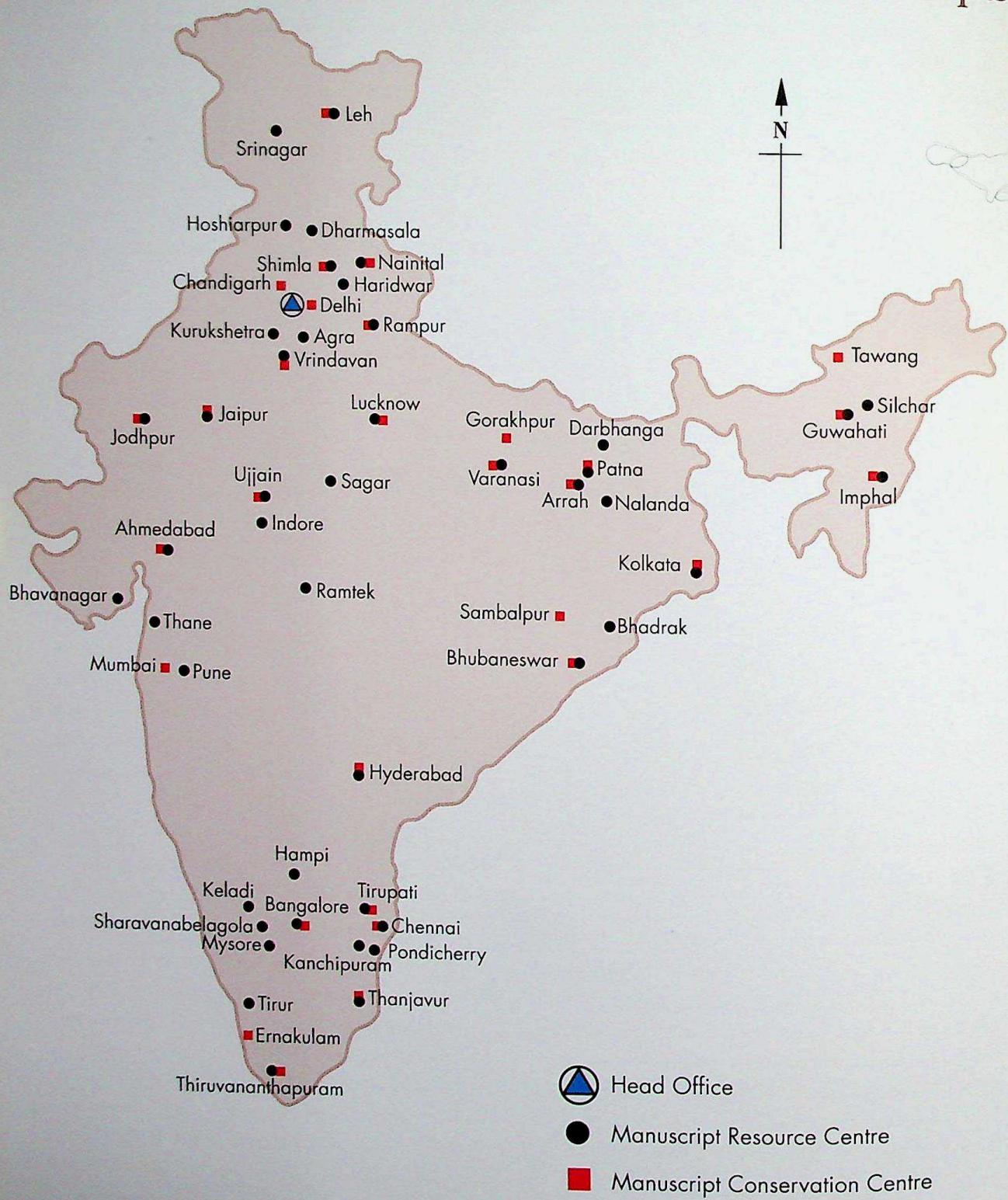
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सत्यमेव जयते



National Mission for Manuscripts



From the Mission Director

The National Mission for Manuscripts completes its fourth year on 7 February 2007. Established by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India, the Mission was set up with the objective of creating a national resource base for manuscripts, scattered across the country. With a view to restore Indian manuscripts, in terms of both physical conservation and digitization, as well as promote access through research and publication, the Mission operates through a national network of institutions and manuscript repositories. It runs multiple programmes in documentation, conservation, digitization, manuscript studies, publication and outreach. The year 2006 has seen the Mission take up fresh projects and set new targets for itself. Standing at the threshold of its fifth year, we now take the opportunity to revisit the year as it was, and review the activities undertaken.

The larger objective of the Mission is to translate the felt need for the preservation of Indian manuscripts into tangible structures, which will consolidate the textual heritage of the past in contemporary knowledge societies. The National Electronic Catalogue of manuscripts is a step in this direction. The Catalogue will serve as an information portal for scholars and researchers, by garnering information from institutions and repositories, public or private, catalogued or un-catalogued, from every corner of the country. A milestone for the Mission in 2006 has been the completion of the information of the first 1.5 million manuscripts. We have so far, completed the codification of approximately 30% of the total estimated five million manuscripts in the database, which is now being made available on the internet. The database can be accessed through the Mission's website www.namami.org.

A culmination of various earlier efforts at creating an electronic catalogue of manuscripts, notably by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the National

Archives of India, the database is a consolidated product of the large scale documentation of manuscripts, which is taking place continually under the supervision of the Mission. We have collected information of the manuscripts through intensive national surveys across different States of India, followed by detailed documentation through post-survey exercises, as well as by the Mission's Resource Centres and Partner Centres across India. This effort contributes directly to the steady increase of our national database of manuscripts.

In 2006, the Mission has expanded its ambit significantly.

In the conservation department of the Mission, workshops on preventive and curative conservation have been extended to highlight various rare support materials of manuscripts. In the first phase, four such workshops are being organised in four corners of the country, developing the conservation studies and modules of manuscript materials specific to the regions. We see this as a specialised skill development programme in conservation, bringing forth both research and practical training in a common platform. In the coming year, such seminars and workshops will be organised at both the national and international levels.

Digitization of manuscripts has been one of our foremost projects,

and in 2006, the pilot project on digitization, covering five important caches across the country, is nearing completion. In the second phase, we are now focusing on the most important collections from fifty repositories in India, apart from the digitization of the New Catalogus Catalogorum and the 45 manuscripts designated as 'Vijnananidhi - The Manuscript Treasures of India'. Recognizing the questions and issues pertaining to the digitization of manuscript collections, in particular with matters of access generation and copyright issues, the Mission is now in the process of charting out standards and policies in this area.

Objectives of the Mission

- Survey, document and catalogue Indian manuscripts, in India and abroad, and compile a National Database
- Facilitate conservation and preservation of manuscripts through training, awareness building and financial support
- Provide ready access to these manuscripts through digitization and publication
- Promote scholarship and research in the study of Indian languages and Manuscriptology
- Set up a National Manuscripts Library at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

From the Mission Director

In making the knowledge content of Indian manuscripts accessible, the Mission operates with a multi-pronged outreach programme, including monthly lectures, national seminars, workshops, etc. At the State-level, these outreach programmes are facilitated by our nation-wide network of Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s) and Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCC-s), and the parallel network of the Manuscripts Partner Centres (MPC-s) and the Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC-s). In 2006, the Mission structured its outreach activities specifically for connecting with the youth of the country. We had manuscript extension programmes for school children in 11 districts in Andhra Pradesh, and at present, a national debate competition for university students is being organised in five zones across the country.

The year 2006 has been significant, in particular, in our mission to bring the manuscripts heritage of India to an international platform. In March 2006, the Mission sent four nominations from India for the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' Register. In October, the Mission organised an international exhibition of Indian manuscripts at the Frankfurt Book Fair. "The Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word" was the first of its kind international exhibition of Indian manuscripts. With India as Guest of Honour at Frankfurt, the Mission brought to limelight a range of manuscripts, upholding a rich display of texts and textures, scripts, calligraphies and illustrations from across India. The exhibition is now being brought to the National Archives of India, New Delhi, where it will be exhibited for a month. A bilingual Catalogue of the Frankfurt Exhibition was published, which is now available in bookstores.

Among other publications of the Mission this year were, the *Tattvabodha*, a collection of lectures, the *Samrakshika*, a compilation of seminar papers, and the *Kritibodha*, the first of the Mission's Critical Edition Series. The Mission is bringing out the Catalogue, *Vijnananidhi- Manuscript Treasures of India*, a catalogue of the 45 manuscripts designated as 'treasures'.

With the database increasing steadily, we are now working at increasing the research base in manuscript studies, in textual criticism as well as in conservation methodologies. A beginning in this direction has already been made, with many universities introducing degree and diploma courses in Manuscriptology, the beginning of the Gurukula Fellowships for research in critical studies, and the joint projects with National Research Laboratory for the Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow. In the coming year, we seek to do more intensive work in this area, and further broaden the documentation exercise by networking with the international collections of Indian manuscripts.

In the past four years, the Mission has expanded manifold, in keeping with the vast mandate of documenting all manuscripts of the country. As we begin our fifth year, we are aware of increased responsibilities and challenges. We take this opportunity to thank all those institutions, scholars, experts and interested people whose efforts have brought us here. We are also inviting all scholars and researchers, cultural and knowledge institutions in the government and private sectors, and most importantly, the citizens of the country to come forward in preserving and opening up the knowledge heritage of India.



Areas of Action

I. Documentation

- Creation of National Electronic Database of Manuscripts
- National Survey of Manuscripts and Post Survey Programme
- Expansion and Strengthening of Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s)
- Supporting Manuscript Partner Centres (MPC-s)
- Documentation of Collections Abroad

II. Manuscript Conservation and Training

- Expansion of MCC Network
- Performance Summary of the MCC-s
- Increase in Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC-s)
- Creation of a National Resource Team of Conservators
- Promotion of Research Programmes
- Preventive Conservation Training
- Workshops on Conservation of Rare Support Materials
- Establishment of Field Laboratories
- MCPC Workshops
- Conservation of Manuscript Collections in MRC-s
- Collaboration with Survey and Post Survey
- Collaboration with Digitization

III. Training on Manuscriptology and Paleography

- Courses on Manuscriptology and Paleography
- Gurukula Fellowships
- Manuscriptology Courses in Indian Universities

IV. Documentation through Digitization

- Completion of the Pilot Project
- Beginning of the Second Phase of Digitization
- Guidelines and Standards for Digitization
- Digitization of 500 of the most important manuscripts in 50 Institutions

- Digitization of the Manuscripts to be declared as Manuscript Treasures of India
- Digitization of the Volumes of the New Catalogus Catalogorum

V. Research and Publication

- *Tattvabodha*: Publication of Collection of Lectures
- *Sameekshika*: Publication of Collection of Seminar Papers
- *Samrakshika*: Publication of Collection of Seminar Papers on Conservation
- *Kritibodha*: Publication of the Critical Edition Series
- *Vijnananidhi*: Publication of the Catalogue of the Manuscript Treasures of India
- Publication of Catalogues
- *Kriti Rakshana*: A Bi-monthly Publication of the National Mission for Manuscripts

VI. Outreach Programmes

- *Tattvabodha*: Public Lectures
- *Kriti Rakshana*: Seminars
- *Vijnananidhi*: Manuscript Treasures of India Programme
- Nominations to the UNESCO "Memory of the World Register"
- Living Words: Manuscript Extension Programme for School Children
- Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt and in India at the National Archives of India, New Delhi
- National Debate Competition for the Youth

VII. National Manuscripts Library



Digitization

Having accepted the advantages digitization presents for facilitating access, and the disadvantages digitization has in acting as a substitute for standard preservation methods. It is clear from previous projects that it is most cost-effective to digitize at a master level quality to allow for multiple outputs (e.g. print, access images, thumbnails, etc.) that can be used as alternatives for the original document in the long run.

Completion of the Pilot Project

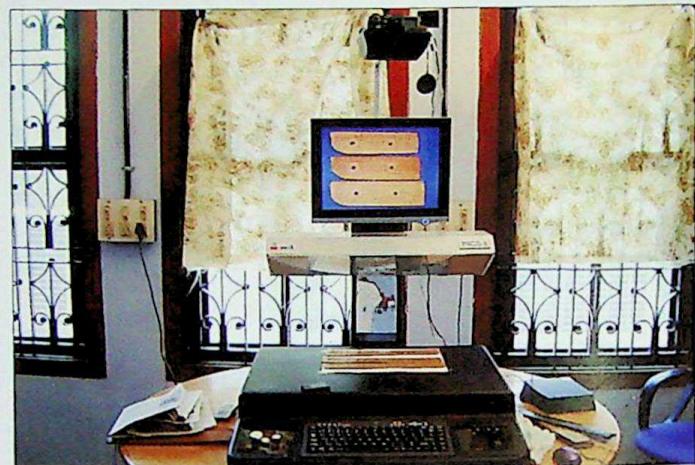
The Pilot Digitization programme of the Mission had taken off in the first phase of digitization in five places, with five significant caches of manuscripts, namely:

1. Oriental Research Library, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
2. University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
3. University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
4. Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
5. Majuli Islands, Assam

Digitization: Second Phase

During the Second Phase of Digitization, Mission has initiated with two important projects:

- A. Digitization of 500 Manuscripts each in 50 important repositories across India, a total of 25,000 manuscripts is taken up under this project. The vendor selection for the project is done through Tender Process. Private Digitizing agencies are hired and as planned work will go at 5 different locations across India simultaneously. It is expected that 25,000 manuscripts will be digitized in



Scanning of Manuscripts in Progress

this programme covering a wide range of manuscripts in different languages, scripts, materials and themes.

- B. Digitization of one million pages of Jain Manuscripts. The work has been assigned to INTACH, Lucknow.

Other Projects

1. Digitization of Catalogus Catalogorum:

The Mission is digitizing the existing volumes of the New Catalogus Catalogorum for preserving the valuable data in these books. Presently we have completed 100 books and work is in progress.

2. Digitization of Manuscripts to be designated as "National Treasures of India":

The Mission will digitize 45 unique manuscripts selected by Mission's Expert Committee as Manuscript Treasures of India.



Performance Summary 2006 – 2007

- ✓ Set up a web-based National Electronic Catalogue for Manuscripts with information on 1.5 million manuscripts
- ✓ Identified and created a network of partner institutions involved in manuscript preservation
- ✓ Set up 47 Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s) across the country
- ✓ Set up 34 Manuscript Partner Centres (MPC-s)
- ✓ Broad-based information on manuscripts through a National Survey in 7 States of India covering a total of 20 States
- ✓ Initiated Post Survey Programme to garner information accrued through National Surveys in 8 States
- ✓ Set up 33 Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCC-s) across the country
- ✓ Set standards for MCC-s and other institutions on storage and on preventive conservation of manuscripts
- ✓ Capacity-building on conservation through training workshops
- ✓ Broad-based preventive conservation through more than 250 Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC-s)
- ✓ Started advanced training on curative conservation
- ✓ Created National Resource Team of conservators for preventive conservation
- ✓ Conducted four workshops on the conservation of rare support materials of manuscripts in different parts of the country, on ivory and parchment, sanchipat, cloth and metal
- ✓ Evolved standards and benchmarks on digitization of manuscripts
- ✓ Completed Pilot Project for the digitization of manuscripts
- ✓ Built up Manuscriptology skills through short-term courses, advanced courses and projects for students for critical editing

- ✓ Began Gurukula fellowships
- ✓ Developed a portal of the Manuscripts Mission to share information
- ✓ Supported the New Catalogus Catalogorum
- ✓ Created catalogue of *Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India* programme in which 45 manuscripts will be in focus
- ✓ Spread outreach programmes across the country through contact programmes, media and seminars
- ✓ Initiated a National Debate Competition for the Youth in five zones across the country
- ✓ Manuscripts Extension programme held for school children across eleven districts in Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ First international exhibition of Indian manuscripts organized at Frankfurt, as a part of the Frankfurt Book Fair
- ✓ Second exhibition organized at the National Archives of India, New Delhi
- ✓ New NMM website launched
- ✓ First volumes of *Tattvabodha*, *Samrakshika*, *Kritibodha* published
- ✓ Catalogues of the International Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt – "Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word" and "*Vijnananidhi – Manuscript Treasures of India*" published
- ✓ Four National Seminars under the *Sameekshika Series* held at Chennai, Tanjore, Sagar and New Delhi
- ✓ Submitted nomination for four of the oldest and rarest manuscripts for the UNESCO "Memory of the World Register"
- ✓ Contributed to NCERT Text Books for chapters on textual heritage

Documentation

With an estimate of five million manuscripts, India is perhaps one of the biggest manuscript reserves in the world. However, most of this wealth has not been documented in a manner to provide a common portal for reference to aid scholars and researchers. In many instances, there has been no knowledge of or access to these manuscripts, creating a gap between the knowledge cultures of the past and present.

The National Mission for Manuscripts engaged itself with the detailed documentation of the manuscripts in India, by creating a National Catalogue of Manuscripts. This Electronic Catalogue provides information of manuscripts from institutions, religious, cultural and educational, as well as private collections across the country, and from Indian collections abroad. This Catalogue is being made available through the Mission's website.

Over the past three years the Mission has been engaged in the process of creating this Database, and in 2006, the first cache of one and a half million manuscripts has been codified in the Catalogue. The number is fast increasing as data keeps pouring in from all parts of the country. The National Catalogue of Manuscripts is the result of an immense exercise in nation-wide documentation of manuscripts.

Objectives

- Location of the unknown manuscript reserves in the country, both in institutional and private repositories
- Documentation of the entire estimated five million manuscripts of the country
- Reaching out to the grass root level for gathering information on manuscripts, as well as spreading awareness
- Creation of the Electronic Catalogue of manuscripts to be made available on the internet

Methodology

- Conducting National Surveys in each State and Union Territory, for locating manuscripts in both known and unknown, private and public, catalogued and uncatalogued collections, through the standard Questionnaire Forms

- Coordinating with the State and District administration, as well as local self governing bodies and general populace at large
- Conducting extensive Post Survey exercises to document each manuscript in Manus Data Sheets
- Gathering data from the Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s)
- Assorting, checking, organizing and entering the data on the Database
- Promoting the documentation of collections of Indian manuscripts outside India through set Questionnaire and Manus Data Forms

National Electronic Database of Manuscripts

The National Electronic Database of manuscripts is the first of its kind online catalogue of Indian manuscripts, emerging out of various earlier attempts at such documentation by different institutions. With information on every manuscript that has been documented through the Mission's Datasheets, the Catalogue covers various aspects of manuscripts, from title, commentary, language, script, subject, place of availability, number of pages, illustrations, date of writing etc. As a consolidated portal, it can be searched through the categories of author, subject etc.

Before the establishment of the National Mission for Manuscripts in 2003, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Archives of India (NAI) were engaged in collecting data about manuscripts. While their projects have contributed to the preservation of private papers, manuscripts and historical documents on a case-by-case basis, there has been no holistic framework, policy or strategy for survey, listing, cataloguing and dissemination of information on manuscripts. The Mission, through the Database, attempts to provide information on each manuscript.

Apart from creating this framework, the Database will provide vital policy impetus for future initiatives to be taken to conserve, preserve, digitize, improve access and save manuscripts for posterity.

Documentation

i. Sources

The information for the Database is directly collected from the libraries and private repositories by trained scholars.

For the Catalogue, data has been received from four main sources:

1. IGNCA (Electronic data and data sheets)
2. NMM (Received from National Survey, Post Survey and surplus data sheets from MRC-s; and directly from private parties)
3. MRC-s (Electronic data and data sheets)
4. National Informatics Centre (NIC) through the Jain Manuscripts Documentation Programme

ii. Formats

The data is entered into the *e-granthavali* software at the Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s) or Manuscript Partner Centres (MPC-s) and finally comes to the Mission for checking by scholars.

The manuscript information is collected for the Database using three formats:

1. Questionnaire: The Questionnaire Form documents each manuscript repository with details such as the number of manuscripts available, material, conservation status and theme (if the collection has been built on a single theme).
2. CAT-CAT: The CAT-CAT provides information on already existing manuscript catalogues (compilation of published catalogues by different institutions).

3. Manus Data: The Manus Data Sheet documents each manuscript with detailed information such as title, author, commentary, language, script, name of repository, name of scribe (if available), date of manuscript, number of folios and pages, and other such relevant details.

Thus three standard directories are generated—of manuscript repositories, manuscript catalogues and each manuscript.

iii. The Software

The software used by the Mission is *e-granthavali*, developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and it has been developed from the model followed by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts for its initial manuscript documentation programmes. It is updated frequently and has undergone several modifications with the addition of new fields and the possibility of multiple subject entries for a single manuscript. *e-granthavali* is based on the Dublin Core Metadata Standards that are globally accepted and used in libraries everywhere. A state-of-the-art software, it has been installed in the MRC-s and the MPC-s of the Mission.

iv. The Mission's Strategy for Manuscript Data Collection

The Mission has a four-fold strategy for collecting the vast amount of information available on Indian manuscripts:

- A. National Survey of Manuscripts and Post Survey Programme to unearth and document private and undocumented collections in a limited time period
- B. Expansion and Strengthening of Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s) to document both known and undocumented collections
- C. Supporting Manuscript Partner Centres (MPC-s) to document collections of established and well-known repositories
- D. Gathering information on collections of Indian manuscripts located abroad

In 2006, the National Database of manuscripts created by the Mission has completed information on more than one and a half million manuscripts. Presently at the Mission's computer laboratory, it is in the process of being made available at the Mission's website: www.namami.org

There are altogether 26 entry points in which information are collected and entered. They are stated as follows with their brief introductions. The six more extended entries introduced in due course of time in the latest software of *e-granthavali* are given within brackets. These are the

Documentation

1. Name of the Repository	Centre where the collection is found
2. Record No.	Serial number of the manuscript
3. Title of the Text	Name of the Text
4. Other Title	The other name by which the text is identified
5. Author	The person responsible for the intellectual content of the manuscript
6. Commentary	The kind of note, explanation & interpretation
7. Commentator	The author of the commentary
8. Scribe	The person who has shaped the text with his own handwriting
9. Language (of Text, commentary and Sub-commentary)	The language of that particular text, commentary or sub-commentary
10. Script (of Text, commentary and Sub-commentary)	That particular sign or symbol recognized by a constitution or society representing a language in which the text is found
11. Complete/Incomplete	Refers to the completeness or incompleteness of a text
12. Material	Refers to the hard substance which contain the manuscript
13. Subject (With multiple choice of Sub. 1 & 2)	Refers to the topic/theme of the text
14. Bundle No.	Refers to the bunch of manuscript/s
15. Acc./Manus No.	The specified technical numeric number
16. No. of folios	The number of folios in a manuscript
17. Pages	Number of folios in a manuscript
18. Missing portion/folios from the manuscript	Refers to the portions/folios that are lost from the manuscript
19. No. of illustrations decorating the text.	Refers to the no. of the illustrations that are used in a pictographic or diagrammatic format to explain or decorate the text.
20. Condition	Refers to the physical condition of a manuscript
21. Source of catalogue	This is redundant, since manuscripts are directly referred to in a stack. However, one may mention source of catalogue as a helping source.
22. Size	Refers to the length and width of a manuscript
23. Remark	Any additional relevant information to note

Documentation

S. No.	Particulars	Data
1	Total number of Data sheets entered by NMM	5, 40, 250
2	Total number of Electronic Data received from MRC-s	8, 50, 383
3	Total number of Electronic Data received from IGNCA	1, 07, 359
4	Total number of Electronic Data received from NIC	2, 66, 447
5	CAT-CAT (Number of Catalogues compiled so far—2,300+216)	2, 880
6	Total number of repositories covered	30, 000
	Grand Total completed till date (Manus Data sheets +Questionnaires)	17, 64, 439

extensions of Language, Script and Subjects. Subject 1 and 2 were introduced to cover the multiple subjects in case of some interdisciplinary texts.

A. National Survey of Manuscripts and Post Survey Programme

National Survey for Manuscripts

The National Survey for Manuscripts is held in different States of India to locate manuscripts in every district of the country. In the Survey, 50 trained Surveyors in each district look for, locate and document manuscripts in their localities on the standard Questionnaire Forms and Manus Data Sheets over 5 allotted days.

i. Objectives

- Location of as many manuscripts as possible with a special emphasis on undocumented, private collections
 - Reaching out to the grass root level, by linking together the search for manuscripts at the village, district, state and finally the national level
 - Generation of interest and awareness of manuscripts among the people in the districts, towns and villages
 - Coordinating with the State and the District administration in the Survey States for infrastructural support in reaching out to the common man at each level in the State

NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS			
राष्ट्रीय पाण्डुलिपि मिशन		अधिकारी संख्या (Record No)	
प्रसन्नबत्ती			
संस्थान (Name of the Institute)			
व्यक्तिगत मण्डार (Individual)			
स्थान/ग्राम (Place/ Village)			
ब्लॉक / गांव (Block)			
दिल्ली (District)			
राज्य (State)			
पिन कोड संख्या (Pin code)			
मस्तक/संचालक प्रमुख Head of Institution			
टेलीफोन : (Telephone)			
ई-मेल: (e-mail)			
वेबसाइट: (website)			
मूल्यांकित पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of total manuscripts			
कागज पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of paper manuscripts			
लालत्र पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of palm leaf manuscripts			
अन्य पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of mss. in other materials		पुरुष/कपड़ा/चम्प/अगाह/तुलापाता/अन्य	
मूल्यांकित पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of mss. catalogued-category-wise			
पाण्डुलिपि संरक्षण स्थिति State of preservation of manuscripts		क्रीटश्व/कोहम/शुष्टि/मर्मक brittle/good/bad/broken	
संस्था का व्यवस्था Status/Type of Institution		सरकारी/निजी/स्वायत्र/अन्य Govt./private/autonomous/others	
देखा संग्रह तिथि Date on which the information is collected			
टिप्पणी Remarks			
विषय Subject	भाषा Language	लिपि Script	पाण्डुलिपि संख्या No. of Manuscripts

The Questionnaire Form

NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS	
मानव संस्कृति विभाग राष्ट्रीय मानसिक विभाग	
प्रधान पात्र Chief Officer	
प्राचीन दस्त (Record No.)	प्राचीन ग्रन्थालय National Library
स्थान (Location)	ग्राम पंचायत (Village) Name (District) राज्य विभाग (State)
प्राचीन काला (Personal Collection)	
मात्रा (Text)	पुस्तक संख्या (Book No.) ३४५ (Manuscript No.)
प्राचीन (Author)	प्राचीन काला संख्या (No. of Folio)
मेंटरी (Commentary)	प्राचीन प्राचीन काला (Set of Ms.)
प्राचीन (Connoisseur)	प्राचीनी (Material) राष्ट्रीय मानसिक विभाग/राज्य विभाग/राज्य
भाषा (Language)	प्राचीन चित्र (Illustrations)
रूप (Script)	पूर्ण/अपूर्ण (Complete/Incomplete) पूर्ण न होना (Missing portion)
प्राचीन काला (Date of Manuscript)	प्राचीन दृष्टि (Condition) शुद्ध या नया
क्रमांक (Series)	इनसेस नंबर (Source of Catalogue) विभागीय/राज्यीय/राज्य/राज्य
प्राचीन (Subject)	प्राचीनी (Remarks)

The Manus Data Sheet

- Promotion of basic conservation information and hands on training
 - Encouragement to local people and students of literature, linguistics, history or any other field in finding and documenting their local manuscript wealth

Documentation

- Creation of a manuscript map of every district, every State and eventually the whole country

ii. Strategy

- The Mission approaches the Culture Department or the Directorates of Archives and Museums of the States, and decides on a State Coordinator to coordinate the Survey in the State under review
- Two District Coordinators are found for each district—preferably one academician and one representing the local government
- A maximum of 50 Surveyors are selected to locate manuscripts in each district
- Pre-Survey mapping of the district by the District Coordinators
- Outreach campaigns with advertisements in the newspapers, public meetings and networking with panchayats, district administration and eminent personalities
- Training of the District Coordinators and Surveyors in filling the Questionnaire and Manus Data sheet in at least 2 separate training sessions

- Setting of targets for the Surveyors by the District Coordinators on the basis of pre-Survey mapping

The National Survey in 2006-2007

In 2006, the Mission took the National Survey to eight states, covering North, Central and North East India. The Survey has been completed in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. The Survey will be completed in Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim between February and March.

In September, the National Survey took place in Himachal Pradesh. The Manuscript Resource Centre in Himachal, the Himachal Academy of Arts, Languages and Culture acted as the coordinating body in the State, with active participation from the Department of Arts, Languages and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh. The National Survey was successful in locating approximately 20,000 manuscripts across the State, with local scripts like Tankri coming to the focus. The Survey also saw school students actively participating in the awareness campaigns to promote the documentation and conservation of manuscripts.



Awareness Programme in Secondary Schools, District Solan, for the National Survey in Himachal Pradesh

Documentation

In October, the National Survey was taken to West Bengal, under the coordination of the Manuscript Resource Centre Manuscript Library, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. The Survey in West Bengal was successful in locating as many as 2700 manuscript repositories, and around one lakh manuscripts, in a range of scripts, covering Gaudi, Nagari, Persian etc. The Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and the Directorate of State Libraries, Government of West Bengal provided infrastructural support, and the Survey was facilitated by large scale public enthusiasm.

In December, the Mission conducted the National Survey of manuscripts in Haryana. The Manuscript Resource Centre, Department of Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali, Kurukshetra University was active in organizing the Survey in the State. The Survey has been successful in locating approximately 5000 manuscripts.

National Survey in 2006-2007

States covered till January 07	West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan
States scheduled for February 07	Goa, Arunachal Pradesh
States scheduled for March 07	Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, J&K (Jammu & Srinagar)

The Mission has focused on completing the Survey in the North East this year, with special focus on the states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. In Sikkim, the Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs and the Department of Cultural Heritage will be coordinating the Survey in the State, and in Arunachal Pradesh, the National Survey will be coordinated by the Tawang Monastery, the Mission's new Manuscripts Conservation Centre in the State. In the remaining States in the North East, including Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram, given the sparse possibilities of hand written manuscripts, the Mission is in the process of developing a module to document oral knowledge traditions.

In Rajasthan, the Survey is being coordinated by the Rajasthan State Archives, while in Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the Directorates of Archives and Museums are acting as the coordinating bodies. The Survey was initiated in Goa too, with the Department of Archives and Archeology as the coordinating body. Preparation of ground work for the

Survey was started in Jammu and Kashmir too, and the first phase of the Survey will take place in Jammu and Srinagar in March 2007.

Post Survey Programme

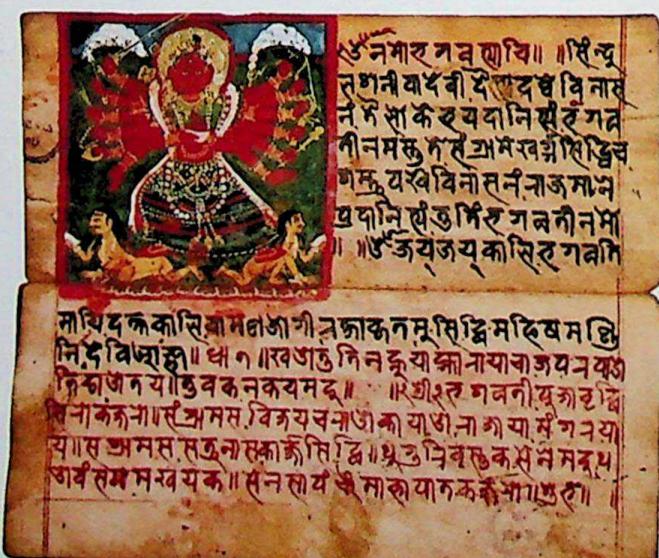
During the Post Survey programme, the Mission revisits every manuscript repository located during the National Survey and ensures proper documentation of each manuscript for the National Electronic Database. The Post Survey uses the information gathered during the Survey and partners with people and institutions in the districts (often themselves located during the Survey) to complete the documentation and consolidate the gains of the National Survey in the districts.

i. Objectives

- To follow up on the National Survey for Manuscripts by revisiting each repository uncovered
- To document each manuscript in each repository in every district, State and eventually the country

ii. Methodology

- Analysis of the information gathered through the National Survey with regard to:
 - Number of repositories in each district
 - Total number of manuscripts in each repository and district
 - Number of districts in the State



Documentation



Inauguration Ceremony for National Survey in Himachal Pradesh

- Defining resources required for documenting manuscripts in terms of:
 - Number of Documenters/Surveyors per district
 - Amount of time required to finish the work in each district and State
 - The identification of potential Manuscript Partner Centres (MPC-s) in each district to coordinate the work.
- Selection of MRC-s/Partner Institutions/MPC-s at the State-level to coordinate the work in the State
- Identification of qualified Documenters and District Coordinators (according to requirement) by the State-level coordinating institution
- Organizing an intensive training workshop for the Documenters for which the Mission provides the trainers which aims to:
 - Train the Documenters with respect to filling the Manus Data Sheets and Questionnaires
 - Familiarize the Documenters with potential problems they may face in the field
- Providing the Documenters with lists of repositories
- The actual data collection by the Documenters who submit the Manus Data sheets to their District Coordinator or State-level coordinating institution
- The data is then computerized using the *e-granthavali* software at either the State-level coordinating institution or at the Mission Office in Delhi and integrated into the Database.

Post Survey in 2006-07

In 2006-2007, the Post Survey has been initiated in the states of Manipur, Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. In Manipur, the Director, Manipur State Archives, coordinated the Post Survey exercise with the Mission and successfully completed it by documenting approximately 23,000 manuscripts. In Orissa, the Post Survey exercise was coordinated by Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneshwar and SARASWATI, Bhadrak and data on 2.5 lakh manuscripts were collected. In Bihar, Post Survey has yielded one lakh data after its completion under the coordinatorship of Sri Dev Kumar Jain Oriental Research Institute, Arrah.

Documentation



In Karnataka, the Post Survey began with the Director, Oriental Research Institute Mysore as State Coordinator. The Mission's four Manuscript Resource Centres in Karnataka—Department of Manusciptology, Kannada University; National Institute of Prakrit Studies & Research, Shrutiakevali Education Trust; Keladi Museum & Historical Research and Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtan are working with the Mission in implementing the Post Survey exercise. It covers whole of Karnataka's 28 districts and it will end in January 2007. Approximately 1,74,246 manuscripts will be documented.

In Tamil Nadu, the Director, Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai has provided administrative support in implementing the Post Survey exercise. Under its aegis, the Mission's four Manuscript Partner Centres viz. Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library,

Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras; Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Viswa Mahavidyalaya are providing scholarly base in implementing the exercise. It is taking place in all the 30 districts and the Mission will collect approximately 1.5 lakhs information of manuscripts from the State.

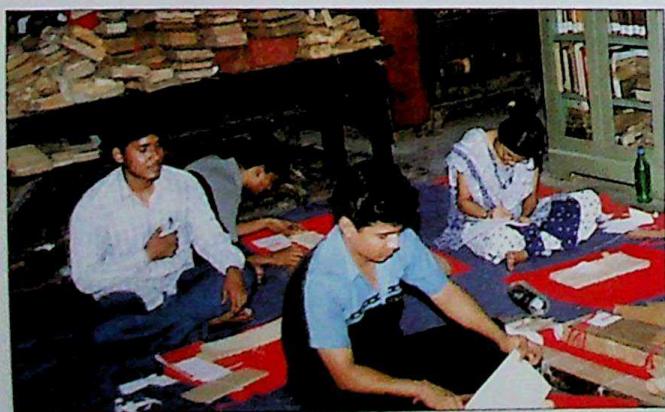
In Uttar Pradesh, the Post Survey, undertaken by the Director, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property is taking place in 13 districts and the exercise will yield information of approximately 1.5 lakhs manuscripts. By the end of March 2007, the Mission will start the Post Survey exercise in Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Goa and West Bengal

B. Expansion and Strengthening of Manuscript Resource Centres

To create an extensive network for survey, documentation, cataloguing and awareness among the people and to assist the keepers and stakeholders of manuscripts, the Mission has set up Manuscript Resource Centres (MRC-s) across the country in universities, renowned research institutions and established non-governmental organizations engaged in work relating to manuscripts.

New Manuscript Resource Centres

This year the Mission has established MRC-s in seven new institutions around India, making the total number 47. The



Surveyors at Work in National Survey in West Bengal

Documentation

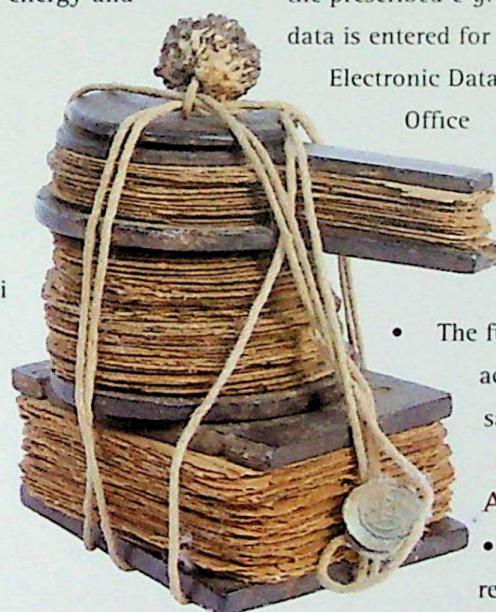
Mission can now boast of covering every major language, script and thematic circuit in the country through its network of MRC-s. By working closely with so many institutions that worked in the area of manuscripts, often for decades, the Mission also takes advantage of the accumulated experience of its partners while providing simultaneously, fresh programmatic direction, channelling of energy and requisite funding.

The new MRC-s are:

1. Vrindavan Research Institute, Vrindavan
2. Akhila Bharatiya Sanskrit Parishad, Lucknow
3. Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi
4. Department of Sanskrit, HNB Garwal University, Uttranchal
5. K. M. Hindi Institute of Hindi Studies and Linguistics, Agra
6. Sri Dev Kumar Jain Oriental Research Institute, Arrah
7. Anandashram Samstha, Pune

Organization of the MRC-s

- Each MRC has a core team of personnel trained in various levels of expertise like cataloguing, editing and deciphering scripts
- The activities of each MRC are administered and coordinated by a Project Coordinator from the existing staff of the Institution
- To source the data through field surveys and document



the manuscripts, two types of personnel work with the MRC—scholars engaged in the field for survey and the computer entry personnel to enter data in the *e-granthavali* software

- To set up a Manuscript Registration Centre equipped with two computers and a printer with internet facilities and the prescribed *e-granthavali* software where manuscript data is entered for eventual integration into the National

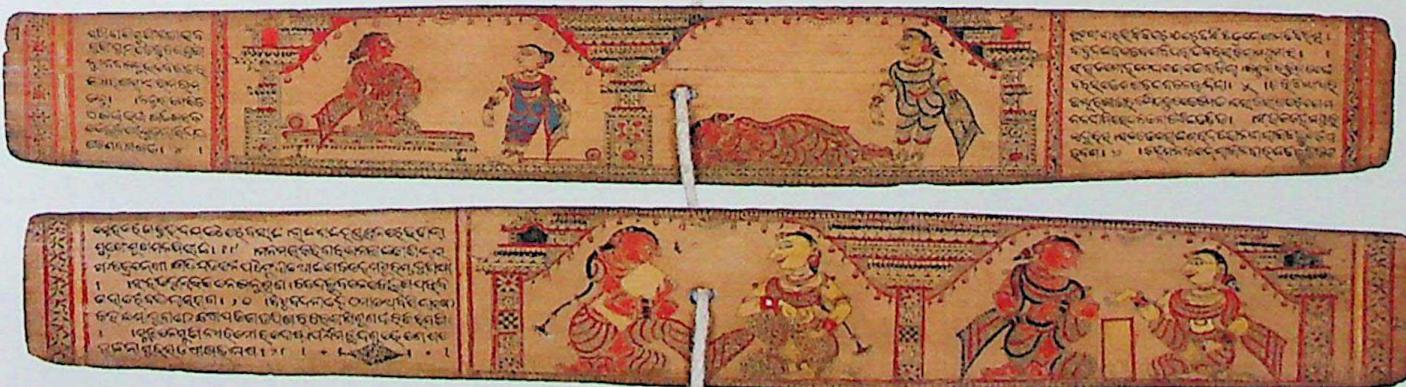
Electronic Database of Manuscripts at the Mission Office

- To find resource persons to decipher and edit manuscripts through organizing workshops on Manuscriptology and Paleography
- The funds for each MRC are disbursed according to its capacity and satisfactory output

Activities of MRC-s

- The MRC-s engage trained researchers and students in the field of Manuscriptology for survey and documentation

- MRC help in the National Surveys at the State level
- MRC-s network with private and institutional manuscript custodians
- MRC-s find scholars to decipher manuscripts and teach scripts and other aspects of Manuscriptology and Paleography
- MRC-s coordinate with the NMM office in Delhi to organize Tattvabodha lectures and seminars



Documentation



Awareness Programme in Manuscript Resource Centre, Vikram University, Ujjain

C. Supporting Manuscript Partner Centres

Apart from the Manuscript Resource Centres, the Mission in the past year has created a network of Manuscript Partner Centres. These Centres are important manuscript repositories in themselves. Their work involves cataloguing their own collections through *e-granthavali* software by their own staff on a pro-data basis or by outsourcing the task. In 2006, the Mission was able to bring 33 such institutions within its network.

D. Documentation of Collections Abroad

The Mission has been preparing the ground for the documentation of collections located in repositories abroad. Already, more than 70 institutions have been contacted. In 2006, the Mission has been in the process of drawing up a project for coordinating with the SAARC nations, to document Indian manuscripts in the various South Asian countries. It is expected that in 2007-08, this exercise in international

networking and documentation of collections abroad will begin to yield tangible results in terms of the expansion of the National Electronic Database and the digitization of particularly rare and valuable Indian manuscripts.

Strategy

- Establishing contact with known repositories of Indian manuscripts in Europe, USA and Asia
- Sending the appropriate formats on which our manuscript data is collected
- Sending the *e-granthavali* software for computerization of data
- Helping repositories locate scholars in their areas who can read and decipher as yet un-catalogued Indian manuscripts
- Collecting catalogues where such exist for the National Manuscripts Library



Manuscript Conservation and Training

Conservation of cultural property through the promotion of awareness and expertise is a concern shared by all in the cultural heritage sector. The Mission over the past four years has made some definite interventions in this domain. Through its network of Manuscript Conservation Centres and Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres, the Mission has been organizing a number of workshops and training programmes across the country to create a national base of conservation expertise around manuscripts.

In 2006, the Conservation Department of the Mission has broadened its ambit, both in terms of a national distribution of workshops and affiliated institutions, and also in bringing in fresh perspectives in conservation training and research.

Objectives

- Generation of skill and awareness among the holders of manuscripts, institutional and private, as well as in aspiring conservationists
- Provision of financial and material support to institutions and private holders for conservation of manuscripts
- Promotion of research and practical-theoretical modules for addressing various aspects in manuscript making and preservation, with a particular focus on indigenous methods
- Initiation of a publication programme to facilitate popular access to the current research in conservation of manuscripts

Methodology

- Organizing national and regional workshops in preventive and curative conservation
- Organizing workshop-cum-seminars in specific aspects of manuscript conservation, based on materials, climatic conditions, indigenous and technical methods of preparation and conservation etc.
- Creating a National Resource Team of conservators, as a mobile national team for addressing conservation issues in various manuscript repositories across the country
- Coordinating with institutions of repute like the



Curative Conservation in Progress

National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow, for research, skill development and technical assistance in various conservation projects in the country

- Creating field labs to facilitate conservation methodologies
- Increasing the number of institutions within the fold of the Mission's Conservation Centres and Conservation Partner Centres

Expanded Network of MCC-s

In 2006-2007, the Mission increased the number of Manuscript Conservation Centres (MCC-s), bringing in new institutions in its network. The MCC-s are established in leading conservation laboratories and manuscript repositories. In the past four years they have been the core strength of the Mission in promoting conservation practices and training. Each Centre has trained manuscript conservators that provide vital assistance to a large number of manuscript holding institutions in their region. In 2006, the total number of MCC-s has risen to 32, with the additional 5 new Centres:

1. Regional Conservation Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram
2. Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh
3. Manipur State Archives, Imphal
4. Sri Dev Kumar Jain Oriental Research Institute Arrah, Bihar
5. Central Library, Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Manuscript Conservation and Training



Preventive Conservation in Progress

Organization of the MCC-s

- Each MCC has a team of trained conservators and specialists in the field of manuscript conservation
- The activities of each MCC are administered and coordinated by a Project Coordinator from the existing staff of the Institution
- Each MCC has a laboratory with at least basic facilities to undertake manuscript conservation
- Each MCC assists a number of institutions in varying degrees to provide basic preventive conservation care for their manuscript collections
- MCC-s provide training in preventive and curative conservation to custodians of manuscripts all over the country
- MCC-s conduct outreach campaigns to promote knowledge of basic conservation of manuscripts
- The skills of the conservators working for MCC-s are regularly updated with workshops and training sessions

Performance Summary of the MCC-s

- Basic conservation laboratory established in all MCC-s
- Core team of staff in each MCC created from trained staff in varied levels of expertise
- Systematic increase in the preventive conservation drives of the MCC-s
- Outreach programmes expanded to cover more institutions in providing vital care and understanding of conservation issues
- Ten MCC-s identified on the basis of their past performance and expertise to provide curative assistance to collections and institutions
- Identification of 10 institutions by each MCC, to be designated as Manuscript Conservation Partner Centers (MCPC-s) to provide a high degree of sustained care in preventive and curative conservation

Manuscript Conservation and Training

Increase in Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC-s)

Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres (MCPC-s) are a set of institutions with large holdings of manuscripts, which the Mission brings under its national network in order to facilitate and provide assistance to them. Under this programme, each MCC nominates 10 institutions as MCPC-s. Conservation assistance to these institutions, in particular, advice on storage and maintenance of their collections is provided by the MCC-s in the region. Where required the MCC-s also provide preventive and curative work on the manuscripts. Conservation and storage material (acid-free board, acid-free paper, etc) for storage of important manuscripts in these collections are provided directly by the Mission. In 2006, the number of MCPC-s has increased significantly, with the total at almost 270.

Creation of a National Resource Team of Conservators

Taking into consideration the extent and scope of conservation activities taken up for the preservation and conservation of manuscripts, the Mission has launched preventive conservation training programmes for creating a National Resource Team of Conservators. The training equips conservation professionals with practical training on preventive conservation of manuscripts. In this connection, the Mission is in the process of organizing six workshops

across the country to aid the MCC-s in the preventive conservation of the collections in institutions and private repositories in their regions.

In creating this Resource Team, the Mission considers requests from various repositories, and thereby forwards the services of the team in imparting preventive conservation and reorganization of the collections concerned. Five such workshops were conducted in Delhi, Aligarh, Chennai, Benaras and Kolkata out of which we have selected fifty conservators as a part of the team. This training programme is given to participants, with a basic knowledge about the conservation of manuscripts.

Work done by Resource Team	
Name of the institution	No: of Manuscripts conserved
Iqbal Library, Srinagar	1000 MSS
Bhasha Bhavan, Patiala	600 MSS
Central Library, Patiala	4000 MSS
Personal collection of Preetam Singh, Patiala	1500 MSS.
Gurukul, Jajjar	800 MSS
Kurukshetra University	10000 MSS
Majuli, Assam	3500 MSS
Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh	9000 MSS

Promotion of Research Programmes

In 2006, the Conservation Department of the Mission took up projects in promoting research in conservation practices. To improve the capacity and quality of advice given to the various institutions and also to develop a deeper understanding of the materials and techniques of manuscript, the Mission has entered into a formal relationship with National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow. NRLC will henceforth, serve as a research center for reference and as a backup on technical queries.

Four research projects were initiated by the Mission in collaboration with NRLC, which have been in the process at the Regional Research Laboratory for Conservation- a regional branch of NRLC, Lucknow. These concern largely,



Curative Conservation in Progress

Manuscript Conservation and Training



Manuscripts before Preventive Conservation



Manuscripts after Preventive Conservation

- The evaluation of various methods of lamination of paper manuscripts and to develop an indigenous method
- Search for a suitable adhesive for the repair and restoration of palm leaf manuscripts
- Study of the possibilities of simple methods for mass de-acidification of manuscripts
- Evaluation of traditional materials used as repellents and fungicides, and finding ways to increase their efficiency

Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee was formed in 2005 chaired by Dr. O. P. Agrawal with nine other reputed and senior conservators from various institutions, with the aim of enhancing the conservation activities, provide advice and programmatic direction for conservation activities. The first meeting was held in Delhi on 22 December 2005, and a range of issues

from technical aspects of conservation to the administration of MCC-s was discussed. The second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for Conservation took place on 20 December 2006 at the Mission, chaired by Dr. O. P. Agrawal, to decide upon various issues in conservation, looking at both curative conservation as well as various research projects of the Mission.

Preventive Conservation Training

Imparting training in preventive conservation of manuscripts is one of the most important objectives of the Mission. With the establishment of the MCC network and more than two dozen workshops on preventive conservation over the past four years, a trained manpower now exists to carry out preventive conservation of manuscripts with the result that manuscript storage in a large number of institutions has been

The Mission has set up a Manuscript Conservation Laboratory at the Mission Headquarters in New Delhi for the preservation of its own collection, with the minimum amount of infrastructure and facilities required for both preventive and curative conservation of the manuscripts.

Manuscript Conservation and Training

scientifically reorganized. From last year, a broad curriculum for these workshops has been formulated to make them more specific to local needs. In 2006, six Preventive Conservation Workshops were held in different parts of the country training 200 people. From the training 50 people were selected for the National Resource Team of conservators.

Preventive Conservation Training for Creating Reserve Pool of Conservators	
New Delhi	5-7 July 06
Aligarh	7-9 August 06
Chennai	16-18 Oct 06
Varanasi	27-29 Nov 06
Kolkata	29-31 Jan 07
Baroda	Feb 07
No. of people trained: 200	
No. of people selected: 60	

Advanced Level Training in Curative Conservation	
NRLC, Lucknow (Participants from MCC-s, Resource Team of Conservators, and other freelance conservators)	1 Dec 06- 15 Jan 07
Internship- 45 days-4 centres	19 Jan -5 March 07

Workshop on Conservation of Rare Support Materials

In a significant intervention in the conservation sector, the Mission in 2006, organized a set of seminar-cum-workshops focusing exclusively on rare support materials of manuscripts. These workshops were in addition to the routine workshops on preventive and curative conservation, and were designed to develop skills in rare materials of manuscripts, specific to different regions. Four regions were chosen across the country, with four materials typical to that region, climate and culture. With geographical and climatic variations in various parts of the country, the effect of macro-climate on different materials differs from region to region. These workshops sought to address these specific issues and problems.

The first workshop-cum-seminar was on parchment and ivory was held at Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad. The second one took place in Chennai, at the Egmore Museum, dealing with metal preservation. The third workshop on sanchipat took place at the Sankar Deva Kala Kshetra in Guwahati, while the fourth one, scheduled for February 2007 in Rajasthan, will be looking at cloth conservation.



Resource Team of Conservators at Aligarh Muslim University

Manuscript Conservation and Training



Workshop on Conservation of Metal Manuscripts, Egmore Museum, Chennai

Conservators/curators from various repositories and MCC-s, research scholars, and also owners of private collections with manuscripts of the specific material discussed in the workshop, have come together in these workshops to discuss and draw practical conclusions from theoretical and practical training. Lectures were delivered by eminent scholars, scientists and conservators all over India who specialize in the respective support material. The workshops involved material technology, the making and conservation of various types of support materials like, parchment, ivory, metal and cloth manuscripts.



Indigenous Methods of Conservation

The Mission will compile the set of lectures and practical sessions in these rare material workshops and publish them. This promises to make a significant intervention in the area of conservation studies, and create more sophisticated levels of specialization in the pool of trained conservators that the Mission has engaged, in New Delhi and across the country. A publication of the compiled papers, will also aid the partner centres as well as the repository owners.

Workshops on Conservation of Rare Support Materials	
Parchment and Ivory	Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
Metal	Egmore Museum, Chennai, 4-8 Nov 06
Sanchipat	Shankara Deva Kala Kshetra, Guwahati, Jan 07
Cloth	RORI, Jodhpur, Feb 07

Field Laboratories

The Mission has further established Field Laboratories at Leh and at Guwahati in collaboration with NRLC, Lucknow. It was decided that rather than invest in new institutions and infrastructure, the Mission may operate out of its own affiliate centres like MRC-s and MCC-s for this purpose. In

Manuscript Conservation and Training

Leh, the Centre for Buddhist Studies is acting as the host institution, while in Guwahati, the Sankara Deva Kala Shetra is the host institution. Technical support is being provided by NRLC, Lucknow.

In August 2006, the Mission sent its experts to Bangladesh, to examine a manuscript of Guru Granth Sahib at the Nanak Shahi Gurudwara of Dhaka and suggest measures for its conservation. The visit was arranged by the High Commission of India in Bangladesh, at the request of the Nanak Shahi Gurudwara. The Granth Sahib manuscript has been estimated as written as early as the late seventeenth century.

MCPC Workshops

In order to facilitate and provide assistance to institutions with large holdings of manuscripts, which do not have need or facility to develop as MCC, the Mission has developed a programme to nominate such institutions as Manuscripts Conservation Partner Centre (MCPC-s). Under this programme each MCC nominates some institutions as MCPC-s. The MCPC-s are given advice on maintenance and upkeep of their collection. At present the Mission has made 220 institutions as its partner centres in this regard. The Mission has also provided some materials like acid free mount boards

and handmade papers for facilitating conservation activities in these centres

To further this programme, the Mission has decided to organize five day workshops for the staff of MCPC-s in each zone. The main objective of these workshops is to give basic preventive conservation training to the manuscript repository holders for the regular upkeep and maintenance of their collection. During the course of workshop, as a part of the practical session, one repository is selected for reorganization of their collection. Initially, five such workshops were conducted at Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram. In the second phase workshops are taking place at Tirupati, Bangalore, Pune and Patna.

MCPC regional workshops	
Jaipur	9-13 Oct 06
Bhubaneshwar	9-13 Oct 06
Lucknow	7-11 Nov 06
Guwahati	21-25 Nov 06
Thiruvananthapuram	7-11 Dec 06
Bangalore	Jan 07
Tirupati	Jan 07
Pune	Feb 07
Patna	March 07

No. of people participated: 270



Resource Team of Conservators in New Delhi

Manuscript Conservation and Training



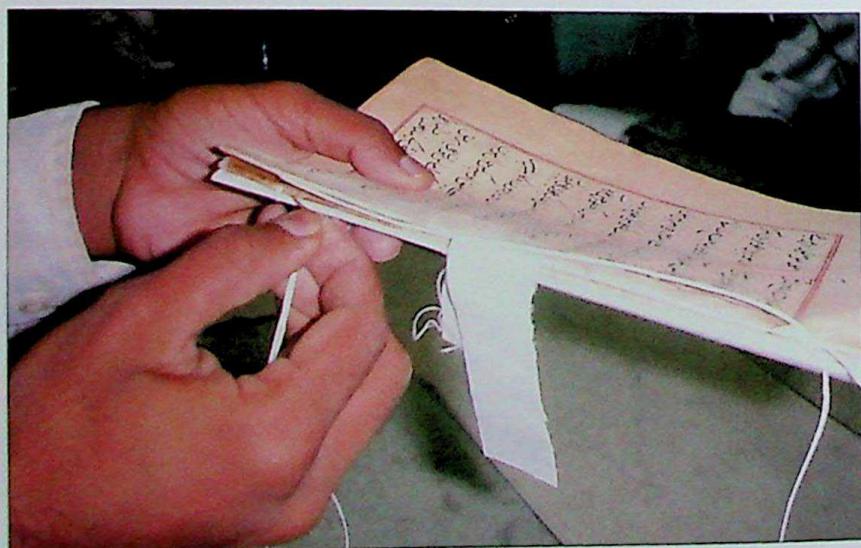
Conservation of Manuscript Collection of MRC-s

A Central Team was deputed to visit various MRC-s to assess their conservation needs in a more holistic approach to conservation in which MCC-s and MRC-s undertake projects jointly. A programme is being developed to provide assistance to the MRC-s not only through the MCC-s but also by providing the staff with training in basic care and maintenance. The Review by this Central Team also looked at the possibility of setting up new Manuscript Conservation Centers at some of these MRC-s in future. The Review will

help to develop programmes to address the needs of MRC-s.

Collaboration with Survey and Post Survey

The Conservation Department has collaborated with the Post Survey in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, in which the surveyors were given training by Conservators from the Mission in the handling and care of manuscripts. Basic conservation kits were given to them. More than 200 people were involved in the training campaigns. The Conservation Department also sought to reach out to the common man during the National Survey through visuals and posters



Curative Conservation in Progress

Collaboration with Digitization

The Conservation Department has collaborated with the digitization programmes of the Mission in the last year. Together with the digitization projects of the Mission, it organized training of the staff at the Iqbal Library, Srinagar before digitization of that collection, as well as conserved 1000 manuscripts at the Library. In December 2006 the Reserve Pool of conservators will be sent to Majuli Island in Assam to conserve their collection of 3500 manuscripts.

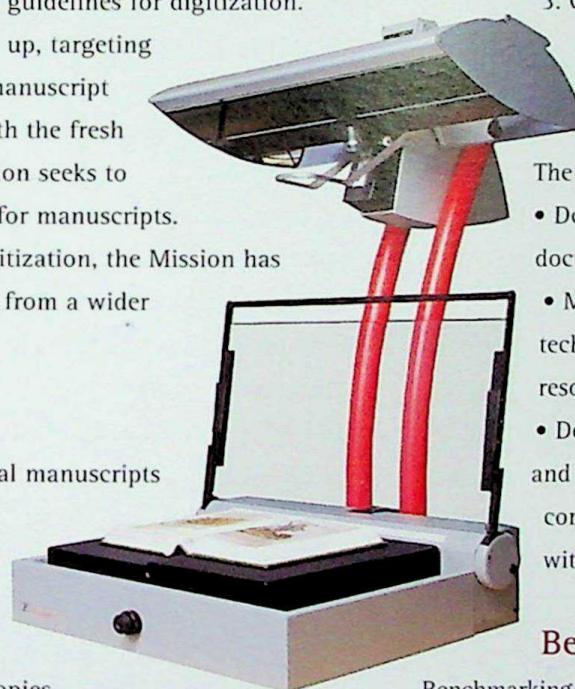
Digitization

Digitization of manuscripts as means of protecting and documenting textual heritage has emerged as an important field in recent times. With the advancement of information technology, digitization promises documentation and preservation of original texts, facilitating at the same time, greater access for scholars and researchers. In 2004, the Mission had initiated a Pilot Project of Digitization, aiming at digitizing several caches of manuscripts across the country. In 2006, the Pilot Project has been completed, with the Mission setting standards and guidelines for digitization. New projects have been taken up, targeting some of the most important manuscript collections of the country. With the fresh digitization projects, the Mission seeks to create a digital resource base for manuscripts.

In the second phase of digitization, the Mission has selected important collections from a wider range of institutions.

Objectives

- Preservation of the original manuscripts for posterity
- Promotion of access and usage for scholars and researchers, without tampering with original copies
- Creation of a digital library as a resource base of the digitized copies of some of the significant manuscript collections of the country
- Creation of standards and procedures for digitization of manuscripts



Methodology

- Pilot Project in 5 states across the country covering 5 caches of manuscripts, in the first phase of digitization
- Targetting, in the second phase, the oldest and the most important manuscripts in repositories all over the country
- Digitizing catalogues, and the Catalogus Catalogorum
- Setting standards and rules through digitization assessment

Digitization Assessment

Digitization 'assessment' considers:

1. Curatorial and conservation concerns related to:
 - the 'robustness' of the source material (does it need special treatment when digitizing, or alternatively can it suffer such things as disbinding)
 - the security implications of out-sourcing the digitization
2. The other 'physical' and 'content' attributes of the source document
3. Costs of completing the project, with relation to in-house resources and out-sourcing (if allowed)

The aim of the digitization assessment stage is to:

- Decide, or confirm decisions, as to whether the document can be digitized from source
- Make a rough assessment of the scanning technique that should be employed and the resolutions, bit depths, etc., that are needed
- Decide bearing in mind security risks, costs, and in-house resources that the work can be completed according to the set pattern and within the time frame.

Benchmarking

Benchmarking can be defined as the process undertaken at the beginning of a digitization project that attempts to set the levels used in the capture process to ensure that the most significant information is captured, e.g. setting the resolution or bit depth correctly, full knowledge of the main attributes of the source document. Mission has set some standard requirements to start a digitization program. They have been compiled in book form as "Guidelines for Digitization of Manuscripts", available in print or as a pdf on Mission's website <http://www.namami.org>. The book covers the following areas:

1. Scanner

Non-touch devices are to be used for scanning purposes as a touch device might harm the original state of document. For this reason a Face Up Scanner rather than a Flat Bed Scanner is to be employed.

Digitization



Scanning of Manuscripts in Progress

2. Image Quality

Image Quality at capture can be defined as the cumulative result of the scanning resolution, the bit depth of the scanned image, the enhancement processes and the compression applied, the scanning device or technique used, and the skill of the scanning operator.

Resolution

It is determined by the number of pixels used to present the image, expressed in dots per inch (dpi) or pixels per inch (ppi). Increasing the number of pixels used to capture the image will result in a higher resolution and a greater ability to delineate fine details, but just continuing to increase resolution will not result in better quality. The scanning of images hence will take place at 300 dpi.

Bit Depth

It is a measurement of the number of bits used to define each pixel. The greater the bit depth used, the greater the number

of grey and colour tones that can be expressed. The Mission follows two kinds of scanning: -

- Bi-tonal scanning to represent black and white.
- Colour scanning use multiple bits per pixel to represent colour, 24 bits per pixel is called true colour level.

Image Enhancement Processes

This would be used to modify or improve image capture by changing size, colour, and brightness, or to compare and analyze images for characteristics that human eye cannot perceive.

Compression

It is normally used to reduce file size for processing, storage and transmission of digital images. The Mission follows loss less compression technique where the decompressed image will be identical to its earlier state because no information is thrown away when the file size is reduced. The Mission follows JPEG/JPEG 2000 international standards for compression.

3. Image Formats for Scanned Images

- Master Image (TIFF format)
- Clean Image (TIFF format)
- Access Image (JPEG format)
- Thumbnail Image (JPEG format)

4. Naming Convention

The naming of images is an important issue that is handled by the Mission in the most enabling manner. Each manuscript digitized is already documented on the Mission's Electronic Database and the Meta Data (the main fields describing the manuscript) information for each manuscript scanned is identified by its Manuscript Identification Number (Manus ID) which is generated by the Mission's *e-granthavali* software. So the Manus ID and the Accession Number, from the Institute/Repository catalogue where the manuscript is kept and where the digitization is taking place, forms the basis of naming the digitized images of each manuscript page.

Digitization

5. Quality Assurance

It is imperative that all digitization undergoes a series of quality control analyses at various stages. This is an accepted method of verifying that all reproduction is up to standard. Bearing in mind limits on time and finances, some form of sampling may be necessary to reduce the costs of this process, as with the NARA who state that at a minimum 10 images or 10% of images (whichever number is higher) need to undergo quality control (these should be selected randomly from the entire collection). Ideally Quality Assurance (or QA) must be performed on all master images and their derivatives with each step being fully documented.

The types of things one should look for are:

- size of image
- resolution of image
- file format
- image mode is correct (i.e. colour images are in colour, not greyscale)
- bit depth
- details in highlights and shadows
- tonal values
- brightness
- contrast

- sharpness
- interference
- orientation
- noise
- cropped and border areas, missing text, page numbers, etc.
- missing lines or pixels
- poor quality interpolation with access and thumbnails
- text legibility

The overall return should be checked for file name integrity, completeness of job, and overall meeting of project scope. NARA recommend that if more than 1% of images looked at fail the above quality control checks then the job needs to be redone. Quality control parameters are well defined in the Mission. It has conducted meeting on setting up of Quality Control Standards, the process initiated by Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, Bihar. Experts on Digitization and Imaging Technology have come to a conclusion that random checking by Imaging Experts is the best and cheapest solution to keep a check on deliverables by the Digitizing Agency. Mission has adopted the observation and will send Imaging Experts to Digitization Sites for Quality Checking before final delivery.

S. No.	Digitizing Agency	Project Undertaken	Pages Scanned	Status
1	Cultural Informatics Lab, IGNCA	Iqbal Library, Srinagar	More than 9,00,000	First Phase completed, DVD's Received, Second phase – ongoing, 4000 manuscripts scanned
2	Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtanam, Bangalore	Siddha Manuscripts, Chennai	4,00,000	Work in Progress, 4500 manuscripts scanned
3	National Informatics Centre, New Delhi	Illustrated Manuscripts of Orissa, Bhubaneswar	2,75,000	Work in progress, 1500 manuscripts scanned
4	Centre for Digital Imaging Technology, Thiruvananthapuram	Kuttiyattam Manuscripts, Trivandrum	50,000	Work Completed, DVD's received, 350 manuscripts scanned
5	Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtanam, Bangalore	Scanning of NCC Volumes, Chennai		Work in progress, 200 books scanned
6	INTACH, Lucknow	Jain Manuscripts, across India	50,000	Work in progress, 200 manuscripts scanned

Digitization

Having accepted the advantages digitization presents for facilitating access, and the disadvantages digitization has in acting as a substitute for standard preservation methods. It is clear from previous projects that it is most cost-effective to digitize at a master level quality to allow for multiple outputs (e.g. print, access images, thumbnails, etc.) that can be used as alternatives for the original document in the long run.

Completion of the Pilot Project

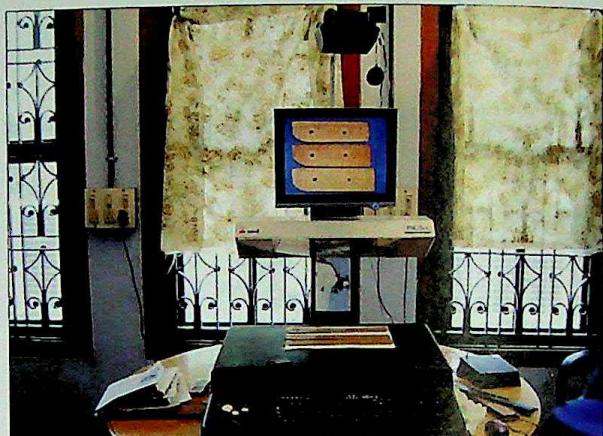
The Pilot Digitization programme of the Mission had taken off in the first phase of digitization in five places, with five significant caches of manuscripts, namely:

1. Oriental Research Library, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
2. University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
3. University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
4. Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
5. Majuli Islands, Assam

Digitization: Second Phase

During the Second Phase of Digitization, Mission has initiated with two important projects:

- A. Digitization of 500 Manuscripts each in 50 important repositories across India, a total of 25,000 manuscripts is taken up under this project. The vendor selection for the project is done through Tender Process. Private Digitizing agencies are hired and as planned work will go at 5 different locations across India simultaneously. It is expected that 25,000 manuscripts will be digitized in



Scanning of Manuscripts in Progress

this programme covering a wide range of manuscripts in different languages, scripts, materials and themes.

- B. Digitization of one million pages of Jain Manuscripts. The work has been assigned to INTACH, Lucknow.

Other Projects

1. Digitization of Catalogus Catalogorum:

The Mission is digitizing the existing volumes of the New Catalogus Catalogorum for preserving the valuable data in these books. Presently we have completed 100 books and work is in progress.

2. Digitization of Manuscripts to be designated as "National Treasures of India":

The Mission will digitize 45 unique manuscripts selected by Mission's Expert Committee as Manuscript Treasures of India.



Manuscriptology and Paleography

The manuscript heritage of India is unique in its linguistic and scriptural diversity. Dearth of skill or expertise in scripts in contemporary researchers has, however, posed a threat to the study and understanding of this textual heritage. Also, specialisations in scripts and aspects of Manuscriptology do not figure prominently in our education system. To address this, the Mission has developed a detailed framework, with a view to train students and researchers in Indian scripts and manuscript studies. Through workshops, introduction of Manuscriptology courses in universities, and providing fellowships for the higher studies in Manuscriptology, the Mission seeks to contribute directly to the production of a skilled resource pool in manuscript studies.

Objectives

- Promotion of Manuscriptology, covering a wide range of specializations—preparation of raw material (paper, birch bark, palm leaf, ink, stylus), study of scripts, cataloguing etc
- Training of researchers in methodologies of textual criticisms, translation, interpretation, reconstruction of texts, study of scribal traditions etc.

- Promotion of critical edition of important and hitherto unpublished texts
- Promotion of Manuscriptology courses in universities, to generate, enhance and encourage possibilities of research in these areas
- Facilitating the networking of shared knowledge community of scholars and researchers in manuscript studies for productive research in Manuscriptology and Paleography

Methodology

- Organizing Basic Level Workshops over three-weeks, at different locations around the country with emphasis on old scripts specific to the area
- Organizing Advanced Level Workshops over one and half month to two months, across the country, combining emphasis on scripts specific to the region and practical training in that area
- Holding the Gurukula Programme in which in the first instance 15 students will work closely with 7 scholars to compile critical editions of vital and as yet unpublished manuscripts



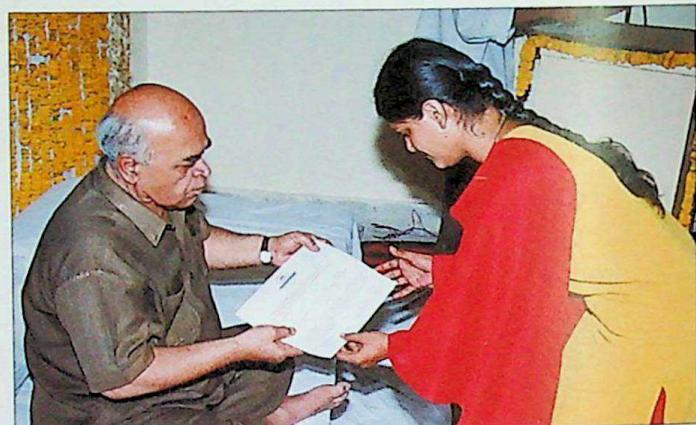
Basic Level Workshop at Shimla

Manuscriptology and Paleography

- Promoting the introduction of Manuscriptology courses at the Masters, M. Phil and Diploma levels in universities
- Collaborating with a renowned scholars on Manuscriptology and Paleography
- Facilitating the publication of research on manuscripts through a publication programme

Courses on Manuscriptology and Paleography

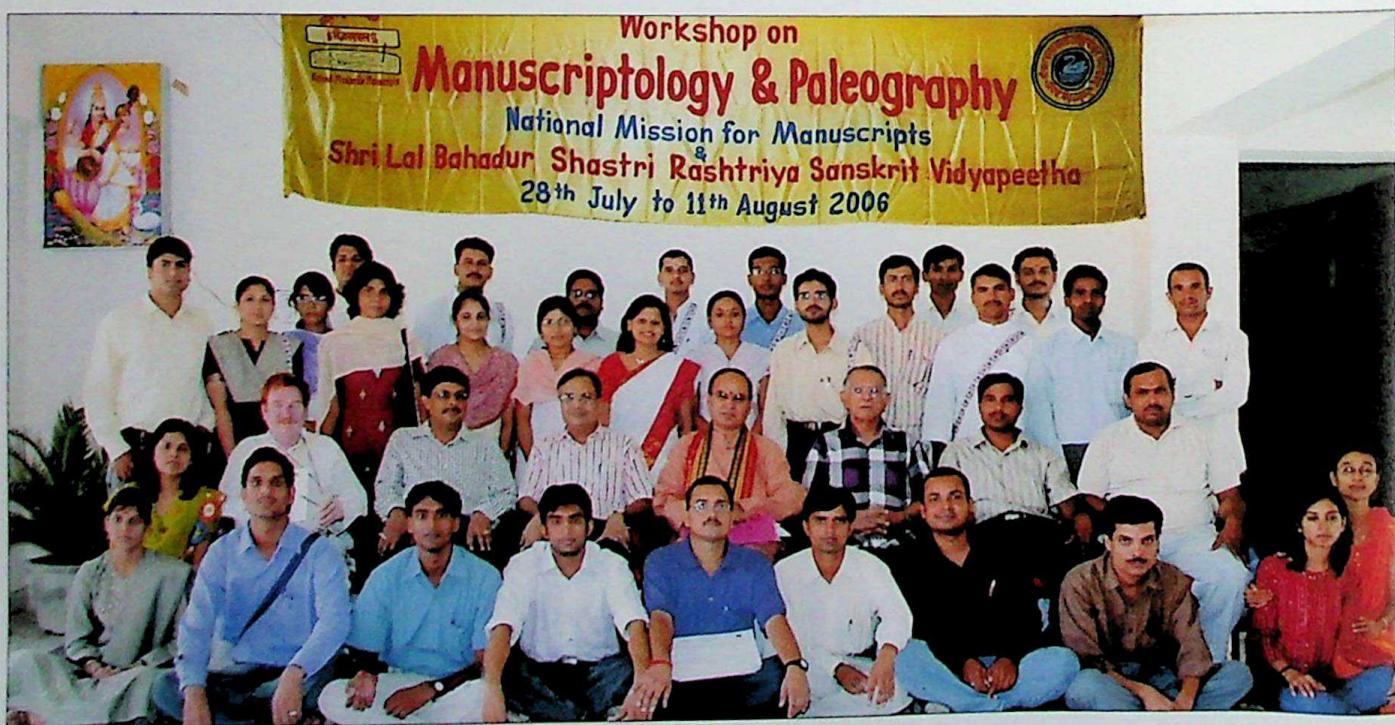
As a significant part of the Mission's initiatives to generate skilled researchers in manuscript studies, workshops are organized all across the country, promoting the knowledge and expertise in regional scripts as well as the classical ones. The MRC-s of the regions are taken as coordinating bodies for the workshops at the state level. In other instances, institutions of repute in the states are brought in within the fold, organize the workshops. Practically each aspect of manuscript studies are dealt with in these workshops, spanning reading of scripts, classical and vernacular, collation, editing, preparation of indices as well as aspects of conservation and preservation. In 2006, the Mission organized five Basic Level Workshops and three Advanced Level Workshops.



Manuscriptology Workshop at Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Ujjain

A. Basic Level Courses on Manuscriptology and Palaeography

Basic level courses are held for a period of two to three weeks at different parts of the country in collaboration with an MRC or other institutions of repute. The course familiarises students with local script prevalent in their area as well as ancient scripts like Modi, Grantha, Gaudi, Tilagari and Persian. In addition, the course covers aspects of critically editing texts and their cataloguing, history of writing, basic conservation and storage of manuscripts and use of information technology in manuscript preservation and research.



Manuscriptology Workshop, New Delhi

Manuscriptology and Paleography

In 2005, the Mission had held Basic Level Workshops in Tirur, Pune, Bhubaneshwar and Kolkata. In 2006, workshops took place in another five places, twice in New Delhi, Patna, Hyderabad, Krukshetra and Kullu, making the total number of basic level courses held till date nine.

i. New Delhi- Workshop in Collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University

The fifth National Workshop on Manuscriptology and Paleography was organized between 1-10 February 2006, in collaboration with Department of Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Sixty-five post graduate students and research scholars were taught various aspects of Manuscriptology and Paleography including critical editing conservation, history of writing, cataloguing and the use of technology in manuscript research. Among the scripts taught were Brahmi, Sharda and Old Nagari.

Scholars from a number of universities, like University of Calcutta, Kurukshetra University, Jamia Millia Islamia etc had participated, and lectures were delivered on critical editing, preventive conservation of manuscripts and also, preservation of manuscripts through the electronic media. The Workshop was coordinated by Prof Shashi Prabha Kumar of JNU, and the valedictory function witnessed the presence of Dr. Ramkaran Sharma and Prof. Lokesh Chandra. The workshop also marked the introduction of a course on Manuscriptology in JNU.

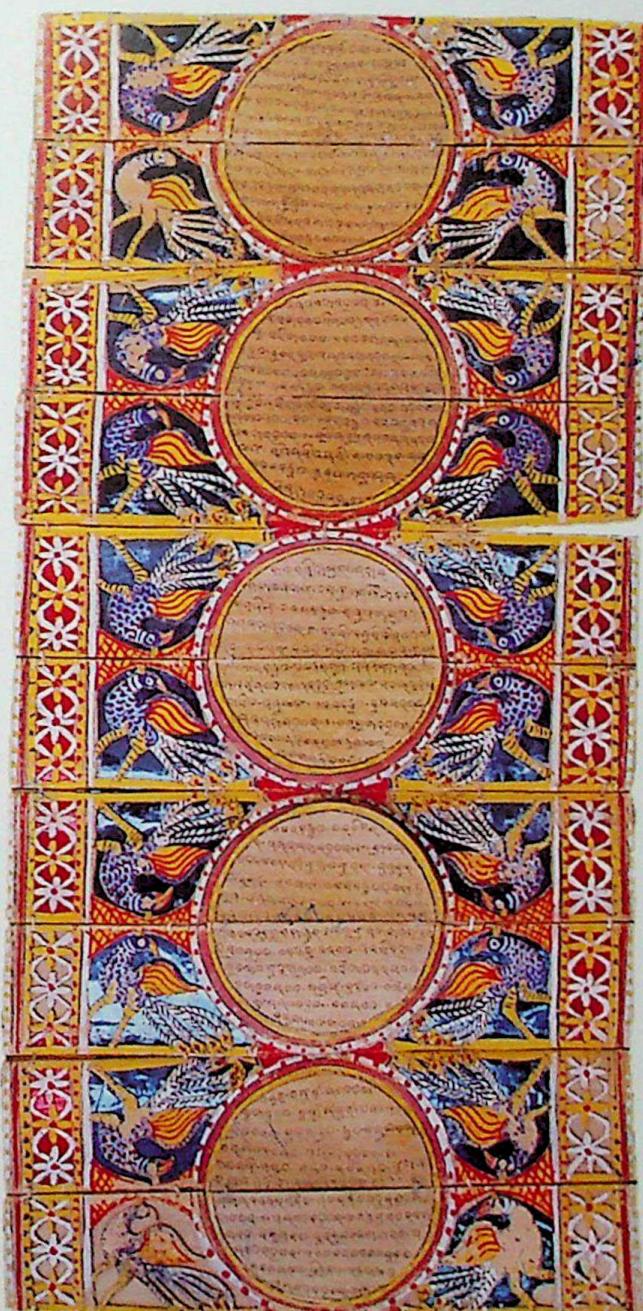
ii. Patna- Workshop in Collaboration with Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library

From 25 February-6 March 2006, the Mission organized the sixth workshop on Manuscriptology and Paleography at the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna for period of 10 days.

30 students and researchers participated from Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The workshop focused particularly upon instruction in Arabic and Persian, and the local scripts of Maithili and Kaithi. 39 lectures were delivered in course of the workshop, together with six practical classes. The participants were also given a tour of the Library so that they could see for themselves the wide range and variety

of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, and the scripts such as Naskh, Suls, Nastaliq and Kufic, used therein.

Among the scholar dignitaries at the workshop were, linguists and historians from Aligarh Muslim University, Patna University, Kameswar Singh Dev Sanskrit University, Jawaharlal Nehru University etc. A significant aspect of the workshop was the importance given to the lesser known scripts and the urgency to cultivate skilled knowledge of these scripts.



Manuscriptology and Paleography

iii. Hyderabad- Training Course in Collaboration with Salar Jung Museum

In May, 2006, the Mission organized a Manuscriptology and Conservation workshop at Hyderabad in collaboration with the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. The training continued for a month, with a total of 70 students participating in the course. Classes were held at Salar Jung, and students were trained in both theory and practice of manuscript conservation. Out of a total of 70, 61 students completed the course successfully.

iv. New Delhi- Workshop in Collaboration with Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Vidyapeeth

The seventh National Workshop in Manuscriptology and Paleography was held in New Delhi between 28 July-11 August 2006 in collaboration with Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Vidyapith (deemed university).

The fifteen day workshop focused on scripts like Brahmi, Sharda, Takari, Old Nagari. A range of issues in Manuscriptology were addressed, from history of writing traditions, collation, editing, transcription and preparation of critical edition of texts.

45 participants from Vikram University, Sagar University, Vrindavan Research Institute, Himachal Academy of Arts, Languages and Culture, Shimla and Lalbahadur Vidyapith participated. Seventeen resource persons from various branches of Manuscriptology and Paleography delivered lectures and conducted practical demonstrations



Manuscriptology Workshop, Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna

v. Kullu: Workshop in collaboration with Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages

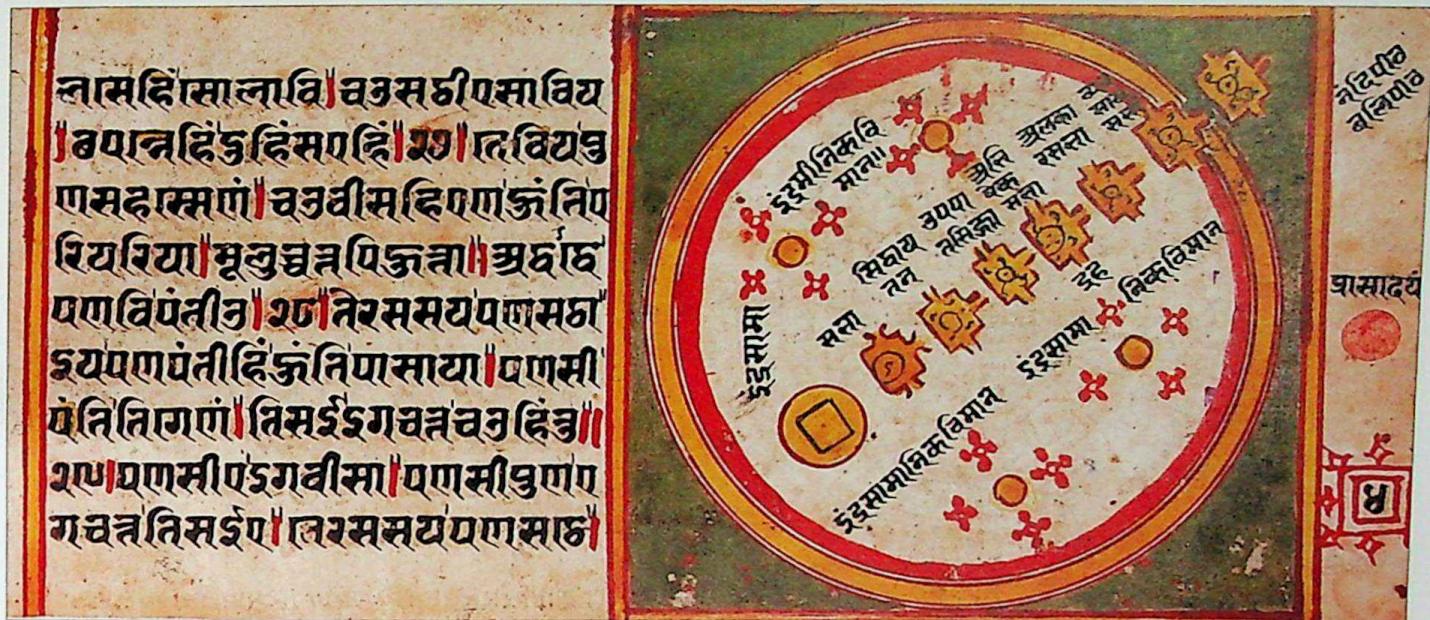
From 6-23 November 2006, the Mission organized a primary level workshop on Manuscriptology and Palaeography in the Baishna Mata Temple premises at Kullu, in collaboration with Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Shimla. The 17 days workshop was inaugurated by the Director, Department of Language and Culture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Sri Prem Sharma and Assistant Director of NMM, Dr. D.K.Rana. More than 50 candidates from different districts of Himachal Pradesh participated in the workshop. The participants were trained in different scripts by Dr. T. N. Ganju, Dr. Subhash Dutt Das, Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Chauksi, Dr. Rita Devi Sharma, Pandit Devi Ram Pandey, Pandit Naresh Pabuch and other renowned scholars. Dr. Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Language and Culture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh was present at the concluding ceremony. In his address, he appealed to the young generation to take part and reap maximum benefits from such programmes.

B. Advanced Level Workshop on Manuscriptology and Palaeography

The Mission conducts Advanced Level courses on Manuscriptology and Palaeography of one and half to two months duration. In these Advanced Level courses, about 30 to 35 best students from among the participants in the Basic Level Manuscriptology courses are given intensive training on select scripts, as well as grounding and practical training in transcription, collation and critical editing. Various aspects of conservation and preservation of manuscripts are also included. The faculty consists of the senior scholars in the country representing different disciplines in Manuscriptology and Palaeography.

The first ever Advanced Level Workshop on Manuscriptology and Palaeography was organized in Delhi in association with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts from 1 August to 10 September 2005. Emphasis on practical training to decipher select scripts and critically editing different kinds of texts was combined with tests and home work sessions with the aim that at the end the

Manuscriptology and Paleography



workshop the teachers and the students felt confident about their proficiency in dealing with manuscripts. Grantha, Sharada, Nandinagari, Old Nagari and Brahmi were the scripts taught.

The participants were asked to indicate their research interests and to apply themselves to study and edit specific manuscripts for further research and critical editing under the supervision of well-known scholars affiliated to reputed institutions. Each of the students also agreed to teach the scripts learnt to at least 5 students in their concerned areas or universities with the help of local MRC-s.

i. Advanced Level Workshop in collaboration with University of Madras, Chennai

The second Advanced Level Workshop on Manuscriptology and Paleography was held in Chennai in collaboration with University of Madras from 10 March to 19 April 2006. About 30 students from different universities participated to learn southern Indian scripts (Grantha, Nandinagari, Telugu, Brahmi and Tigalari) and various other aspects of critical editing of manuscripts like canons of textual criticism, cataloguing, decipherment of date codes and eras of manuscripts etc. Various subjects in manuscripts were also covered, from scientific manuscripts, to literature, philosophy and illustrated manuscripts.

ii. Advanced Level Workshop in collaboration with University of Calcutta, Kolkata

The third Advanced Level Workshop was held in Kolkata between 27 November to 5 January 2007. The workshop was held in collaboration with University of Calcutta, with eight resource people and thirty students from various parts of the country. The subjects covered included various aspects of the development, teaching and writing of scripts, like medieval old Bengali, Gaudi, Newari, Grantha, Old Oriya etc, the processes of preparing the critical apparatus on the basis of collation sheets, register or electronic media, and aspects of critical edition of texts. Among the specific subject areas were the Dharmashastra manuscripts, Darshana manuscripts, Buddhist manuscripts of South East Asia, various Arabic and Persian manuscripts. Contemporary issues like techniques of preservation of manuscripts in electronic media, transcription, printing technology, printing technology, digitization, microfilming and web publishing of manuscripts were also discussed. The workshop also included preventive conservation of manuscripts and practical sessions on library cataloguing.

iii. Tirupati Advanced Level Workshop in collaboration with Tirupati Sanskrit Vidyapith, Tirupati

The Advanced Level Workshop took place at Tirupati between 8 January to 15 February 2007. The workshop was held

Manuscriptology and Paleography

in collaboration with Tirupati Sanskrit Vidyapith (Deemed University) and Sri Venkateswar Oriental Research Institute (Sri Venkateshwara University, Tirupati). Fifteen resource people, including renowned scholars and experts from the various MRC-s, attended the workshop, with thirty students from the South, Sagar, Jaipur. The various scripts included the origin and development of ancient and medieval scripts of South India like Brahmi, Grantha, Sharda, Nandinagari, Tigalari etc.

Out of the participants of these 2 workshops, outstanding scholars have been attached to different MRC-s under supervision of senior Manuscriptology scholars for critical editing and transcribing of manuscript texts.

Gurukula Fellowships

The Gurukula Fellowships are a part of the Mission's project of promoting research in manuscript studies' and critical editions of important texts. This is the third level after the Basic and the Advanced Level courses. The year 2006 initiated the Gurukula Programme on Manuscriptology and Paleography in 10 different places in India.

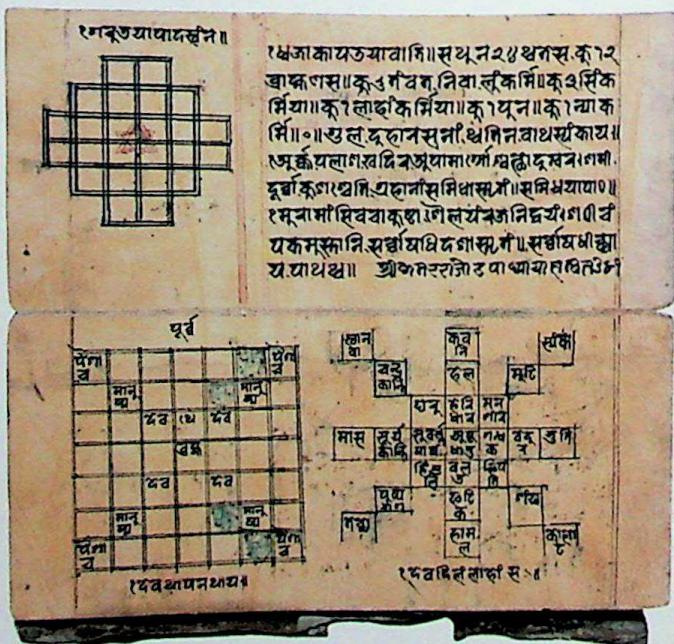
Under this scheme, about 30 young scholars (from among participants of workshops as well as universities) are awarded fellowships for transcribing and critically editing texts. The Fellows work under a scholar (guru) at an MRC. Grade I fellows receive an amount of Rs. 12,000 per month for a period of 12-15 months to transcribe, collate and critically edit a manuscript. Grade II fellows receive a grant of Rs. 8,000 per month for a period of 12-15 months and are required to transcribe 4 or 5 unpublished manuscripts into more accessible scripts.

At present, Fellows under Gurukula scheme are working at Directorate of State Archaeology, Archives and Museum at Srinagar, Vishweshvarananda Bishwabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public library, Patna, Calcutta University Manuscript Resource Centre, Kolkata, Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad and Oriental Research Institute, Mysore. The research work produced under Gurukula scheme will be considered by the Mission for publication.

Guru	Student	Project
Prof. B.B. Choubey, Hoshiarpur	Niranjan Mishra	Krishi Sastra of Parasara Muni
Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Patna	Zebaish Firdaus	Munyatul Musalli wa Gunyatul Mubtadi
Dr. Jitendra B. Shah, Ahmedabad	Kripa Shankar Sharma	
Prof. V.M. Bhatt, Ahmedabad	Dharmendra Bhatt	Commentary of Jonaraj on the Kiratarjuniyam- Mahakavya
Prof. Ratna Basu, Kolkata	1. Kalyani Nandi 2. Medha Kumari 3. Sashi Kumar Sarma 4. Anup Kumar Santra,	
Prof H. P. Devaki, Mysore	1. Mr. Vedayasa	Sangraha Ramayana by Narayanapandita

Manuscriptology Courses in Indian Universities

The Mission has introduced Manuscriptology courses at the Diploma, Post Graduate Diploma, M. Phil, and more widely, at the Masters level. With this 21 universities across the country have introduced the course.



Manuscriptology and Paleography

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Diploma	P.G. Diploma	Degree	M. Phil	Masters Degree
1	University of Pune	✓	-	-	-	-
2	Tamil University	✓	-	-	-	-
3	Osmania University	-	✓	-	-	-
4	University of Hampi	-	-	-	-	✓
5	University of Madras	✓	-	-	-	-
6	Twin Cities P.G. College	-	✓	-	-	-
7	University of Mysore	-	✓	-	-	-
8	The Institutes of Asian Studies, Madras	-	-	✓	-	-
9	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University	-	-	-	-	✓
10	J.N.U, New Delhi	-	-	-	-	✓
11	Vrindavan Research Institute, Recogd. by University of Agra	-	-	-	-	✓
12	Kerala University	-	-	-	✓	✓
13	Madurai Kamraja University	-	-	-	-	✓
14	Bangalore University	-	-	-	-	✓
15	Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith	-	-	-	✓	✓
16	K. J. Somaiya Centre of Buddhist Studies	✓	-	-	-	-
17	Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady	-	-	-	✓	-
18	Sri H. S. Gaur University, Sagar	✓	-	-	-	-
19	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur	-	-	-	-	✓
20	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi	-	-	-	-	✓
21	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	✓	-	-	-	-
22	Jadavpur University, Kolkata	✓	-	-	✓	-
23	University of Calcutta, Kolkata	-	-	-	✓	-
24	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar	-	-	-	✓	-

Outreach Programmes

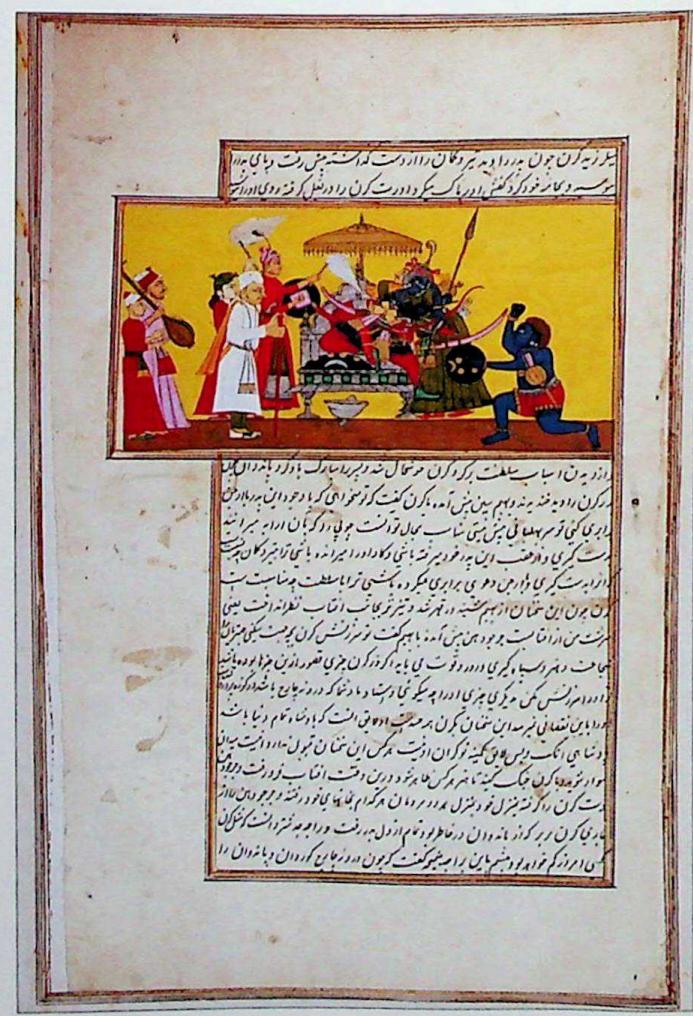
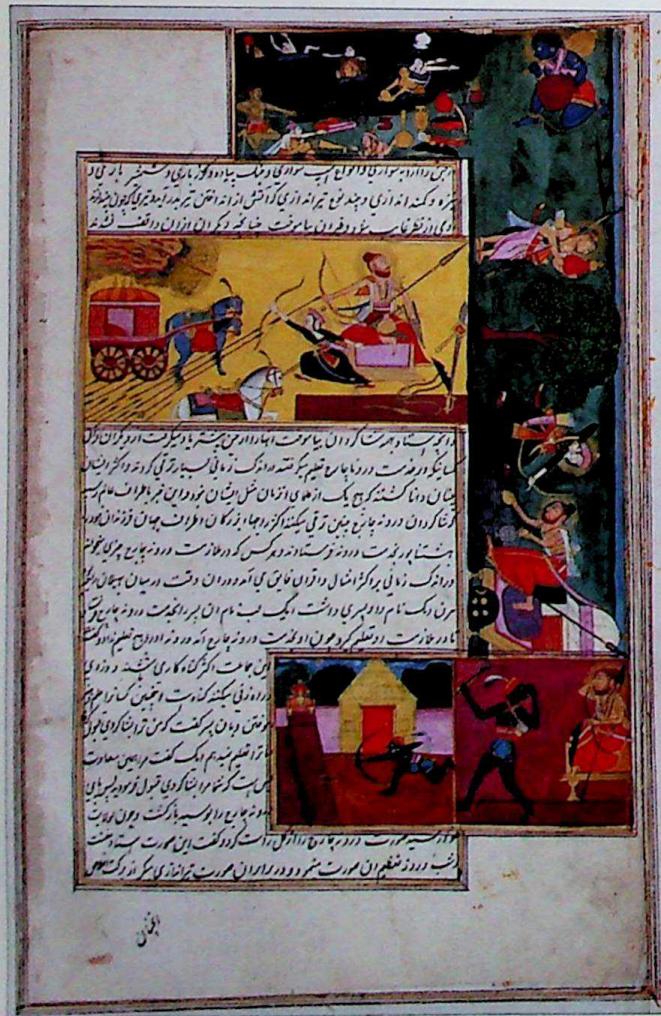
With a view to facilitate access to the knowledge content of Indian manuscripts, the Mission has initiated a number of projects including seminars, lectures and school programmes. The National Surveys, Conservation and Manuscriptology Workshops, and the nation-wide network of MRC-s and MCC-s collectively work towards bringing in more and more people within the fold of the Mission's activities. Through public lectures, posters, advertisements, press releases as well as the radio and television, the awareness about manuscripts, the importance of preserving them and documenting them are spread across the region.

In 2006, the Mission has targeted different age groups, and moulded its outreach activities accordingly. The Tattavabodha Monthly Lecture Series continues, with more lectures taking place in different locales outside Delhi. Three more national seminars were held, as well as seminars in conservation. Through Manuscripts Extension Programmes

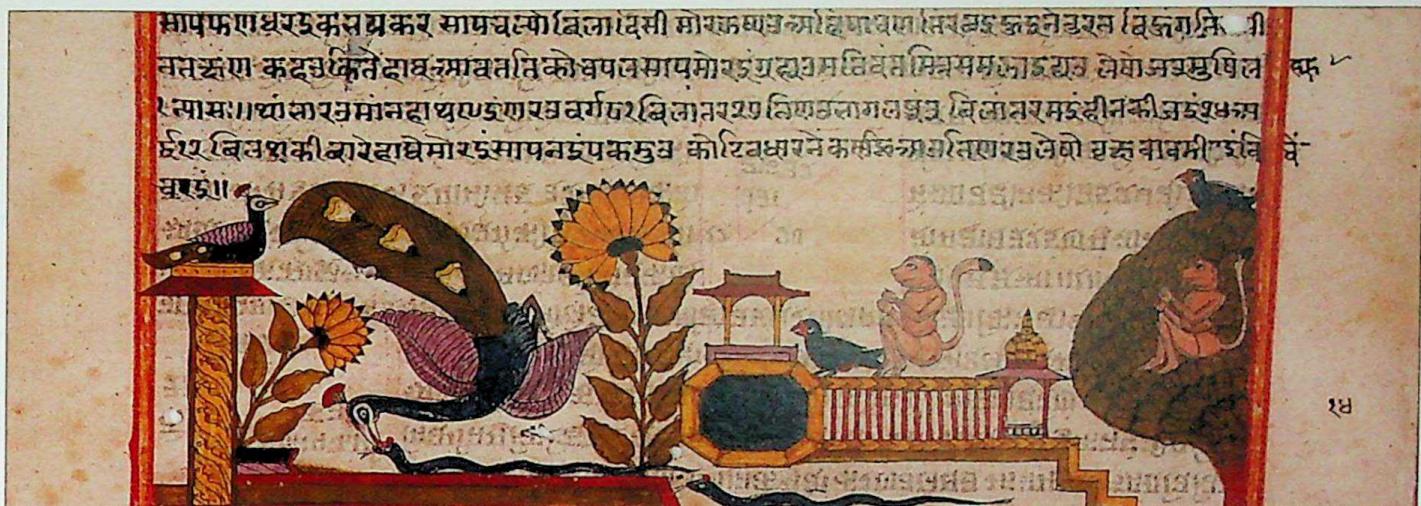
for school children in Andhra Pradesh, and National Debate Competition for the Youth, the Mission has tried to bring in the youth within its fold. The International Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt was a definite step for the Mission towards bringing India's manuscripts to an international arena.

Objectives

- Creation of a platform for discussion, debate and critical engagement with manuscripts
- Promotion of awareness and understanding of the manuscript heritage of India at all levels, from school to universities
- Bringing the manuscript wealth of India to international domains, through participation in international seminars, exhibitions etc.
- Generation of interest, awareness and knowledge of the manuscripts among the general populace



Outreach Programmes



Methodology

- Organizing monthly lectures under the *Tattvabodha* Series
- Organizing national seminars on various aspects of manuscripts under the *Sameekshika* Series
- Organizing national and international seminars on conservation under the *Samrakshika* Series
- Conducting Manuscripts Extension Programme in schools
- Arranging national debate competitions for university students
- Organizing exhibitions, in India and abroad, to bring international attention to Indian manuscripts

Tattvabodha Lectures

The Mission organizes a monthly lecture on the last Thursday of the month at the India International Centre Conference Hall III under the banner of the *Tattvabodha* Series of Lectures. Initiated with a mission of bringing together stalwarts in various aspects of manuscript studies, with scholars, researchers and people with an interest in manuscripts to a common platform, the *Tattvabodha* lectures have, in the past two years occupied a significant space in the Mission's outreach programmes. Apart from Delhi, the *Tattvabodha* lectures happen in other places all over India. Every month, an eminent scholar is invited to share his views on his area of specialisation in the textual heritage of the country.

In the last year, the Mission has organized 12 *Tattvabodha* lectures in Delhi and 5 lectures in different outstation venues. The lectures have covered various subjects, from traditional knowledge digital libraries to printed folklore, from manuscripts on literature to performance, art and architecture.

Till date the Mission has held 35 *Tattvabodha* lectures, out of which the set of first ten lectures has been published in an edited volume *Tattvabodha*. The second volume is underway, which will contain the next set of ten lectures.

Samrakshika: National Seminar Series on Aspects of Conservation of Manuscripts

The Mission organizes seminar-cum-workshops on conservation, focusing on various aspects of manuscripts



Prof. B. N. Goswamy delivering the *Tattvabodha* Lecture at IIC, New Delhi

Outreach Programmes

Tattvabodha Lectures: At India International Centre Annex, New Delhi

31 Jan 05	Prof. Irfan Habib	Writing and Use of Books in the Age of Persian Manuscripts
1 Feb 05	Dr. M. S. Valiathan	Glimpses of Indian Medical History
2 Feb 05	Prof. Lokesh Chandra	Context and Relevance of Buddhist Manuscripts
3 Feb 05	Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan	Is the Unpublished Manuscript Heritage of India Relevant to Contemporary Academia?
4 Feb 05	Prof. R. Champakalakshmi	Bhakti and the Tamil Textual Tradition
26 May 05	Prof. Namwar Singh	Vyas aur Ganesh
23 June 05	Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya	Anthropos Measuring Atomos and Cosmos
28 July 05	Prof. Shireen Moosvi	Reality and the Written Word: The Work and Vision of Abul Fazl
25 Aug 05	Dr. Subas Pani	Tradition and Spirituality: An Exploration of the Mantras of Gita Govinda
29 Sep 05	Prof. M. K. Bryski	<i>Natyashastra</i> : The Text and the Context
27 Oct 05	Prof. M. A. Lakshmithathachar	Sanskrit and Information Technology
24 Nov 05	Prof. G. N. Devy	Writing and Aphasia: Reflections on India's Oral Tradition
29 Dec 05	Prof. Sheldon Pollock	Sanskrit Knowledge on Eve of Colonialism and at the Dawn of Globalization
27 Jan 06	Prof. B. N. Goswamy	Unsung Documents: The Books Kept by Priests at Pilgrim Centres
23 Feb 06	Laxman Thakur	Revered word of the Buddha: Tibetan manuscripts in western Himalayan Buddhist Monasteries'
30 March 06	R. A. Mashelkar	Traditional Knowledge Digital Library: a perspective and the challenges ahead
27 April 06	Shrivatsa Goswami	<i>Grantha Sanskriti</i> : to be read or heard
25 May 06	R. Nagaswamy	<i>Silpa</i> in manuscripts and monuments in Tamil Nadu
29 June 06	Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy	Between Orality and Textuality: The Grey Zone of printed Folklore
27 July 06	Prof. T. N. Dharmadhikari	<i>Pasya Devasya Kavyam</i> : Facets of Vedic Poetry
31 Aug 06	Dr. O. P. Agrawal	Seeking Eternal Life for Manuscripts
28 Sept 06	Prof. S. R. Sarma	Indian Astronomical Instruments

Outreach Programmes

26 Oct 06	Prof. Devangana Desai	<i>Kurma: The Importance of Tortoise in Art and Myth</i>
30 Nov 07	Prof. H. G. Ranade	<i>Manuscript Traditions in Samaveda</i>
28 Dec 06	Prof. Parul Dave Mukherjee	<i>Chitrasutra and the Politics of Authenticity</i>
1 Feb 07	Dr. Bettina Baumer	<i>Abhinavagupta's Aesthetics in Kashmiri Shavism: Texts and Manuscripts</i>
<i>Tattvabodha at the Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar</i>		
3 Jun 05	Prof. Arlo Griffiths	Recent Discoveries Concerning the Tradition of the <i>Paippalada Atharvaveda</i> in Orissa
<i>Tattvabodha at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata</i>		
18 Jul 05	Prof. Michael Hahn	Written and Spoken Advice: On Buddhist Epistles and Sermons
<i>Tattvabodha at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune</i>		
22 Jul 05	Prof. A. Aklujkar	What More Can the Editors of Sanskrit Texts Do?
<i>Tattvabodha at the L. D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad</i>		
14 Sep 05	Prof. M. A. Dhaky	Dating of the Jaina Agamas
<i>Tattvabodha at the Manipur State Archives, Imphal</i>		
21 May 06	Prof. Manihar Singh	Advent of Vaishnavism as Reflected in Manipuri Manuscripts
<i>Tattvabodha at the Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy, Hardwar</i>		
7 July 06	Prof. Ved Prakash Shastri	Importance of Manuscripts as National Heritage of our Country
<i>Tattvabodha at Hyderabad</i>		
11 July 06	Prof. Ravva Srihari	Sanskrit and Telegu Manuscripts: Past and Present
<i>Tattvabodha at Dr. H. S. Gour University, Sagar</i>		
3 Oct 06	Prof. Rajendra Nanavati	Aesthetics in the Illustrated Manuscripts of <i>Saundaryalahari</i>
<i>Tattvabodha at VVBIS, Hoshiarpur</i>		
2 Dec 06	Dr. P. Ramanujan	Computerization of Vedic Texts

Outreach Programmes

conservation, from indigenous traditions and regional variations. The *Samrakshika* series aims at bringing together experts and current research in conservation of cultural heritage to a common platform.

The first seminar was on "Indigenous Methods and Manuscript Preservation", dealing with a wide range of conservation practices and traditions, from palm leaf, paper and sanchipat manuscripts to the conservation practices in various renowned institutions like the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, Rampur Raza Library, Shaivite Mathas in South India, indigenous practices in Manipur etc.

In 2006, the Mission organized a fresh series of seminars-cum-workshops on conservation, focusing on specific materials of manuscripts. Some of these are

i. *Samrakshika* Seminar at Bangalore

Kadathas and their Preservation

A seminar on "The Kadathas and their Preservation" was organized in May 2006 in collaboration with the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore and Regional Conservation Library, Mysore. The papers presented at the seminar dealt with the importance of the kadathas as a unique medium of writing in medieval Karnataka. The uniqueness of the kadathas lies in the fact that they were not written on paper but on coarse cloth, on which a mixture of turmeric paste and charcoal was applied and a soap stone was used as a writing material. The kadathas deal with day to day accounts of the mathas. The seminar stressed the importance of saving these manuscripts for the future generations, and expressed the need for

developing a standardized conservation technique to preserve them.

ii. *Samrakshika* Seminars cum Workshops on Rare Support Materials of Manuscripts

To supplement the conservation objectives of the Mission, four seminars-cum-workshops were planned in different parts of the country according to its dispersion. The first in this series was on Parchment and Ivory, held at Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad. The workshop covered various aspects of conservation of ivory and parchment manuscripts and the process of making them. Emphasis was given on material and technology involved in the making of these materials for manuscripts. 25 participants including curators, conservators and research scholars from various museums and manuscript repositories who are in the procession of ivory and parchment manuscripts participated in the workshop. Practical sessions on the making of parchment manuscripts and the conservation of the ivory manuscripts were an added attraction of the workshop.

A second workshop was organized at the Tamil Nadu State Museum, Chennai on metal manuscripts, with special emphasis on copperplates. The workshop covered various aspects of conservation of metal objects with particular reference to the inscribed manuscripts on copper and its alloys. In addition to the discussion on metallurgy and the corrosion mechanisms of metals, the preventive and curative conservation aspects were discussed in detail. 25 participants including curators, conservators and research fellows



Prof. Nagaswamy at Sameekshika Seminar at Tanjore, Tamil Nadu



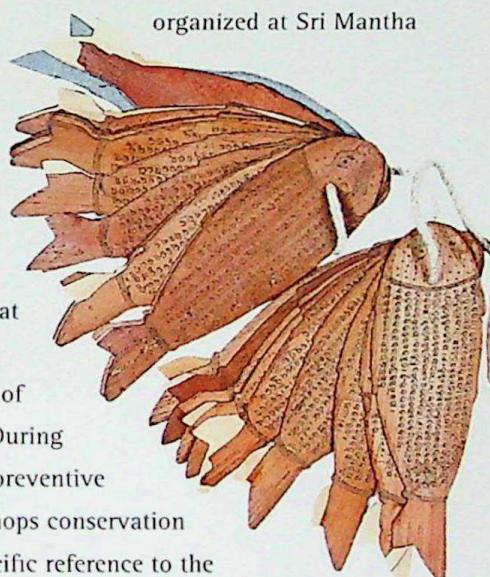
Kadatha Manuscript from Karnataka

Outreach Programmes

from various institutions having the collection of metal manuscripts presented their papers in the workshop. Eminent scientists and conservators from various institutions like National Metallurgical Lab, National Museum and National Research laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property participated in the workshop. A special session on making of metal manuscripts was demonstrated by a local artist during the course of the workshop. During the practical sessions, the participants were made to work on actual metal objects.

The third workshop on the conservation of Sanchipat manuscripts was organized at Sri Mantha Sankara Deva Kala Kshetra, Guwahati, Assam in January 2006. The workshop covered the methods for making the Sanchipat in addition to the actual conservation of these manuscripts. During the workshop both preventive and curative workshops conservation were dealt with specific reference to the climatic conditions of the region. During the course of the workshop, 16 resource persons were selected to initiate the activities of the field laboratory established recently at Guwahati. Eminent conservators and scholars who deal with Sanchipat manuscripts presented their papers on history, preparation and conservation aspects of Sanchipat manuscripts during the workshop. A special session on illustrated Sanchipat manuscripts was an added attraction of the workshop. 20 participants from various institutions having the collection of Sanchipat manuscripts participated in the workshop along with 30 candidates for the National Reserve Pool of conservators as observers. Repository visits were also arranged for the participants.

In the coming months, the Conservation Department of the Mission will be organizing another seminar cum workshop on cloth manuscripts in Rajasthan and an international seminar on palm leaf manuscripts is also being planned.



The Mission has published the collected papers from its first national seminar on Indigenous Traditions and Manuscript Preservation under the *Samrakshika* Series. It is in the process of publishing the second volume of *Samrakshika* on Kadathas of Karnataka.

Sameekshika: The National Seminar Series on Aspects of Manuscriptology

In order to bring together contemporary research and study of various aspects of manuscripts, the Mission had started in February 2005, a quarterly Seminar Series, *Sameekshika*. The first national seminar was held in Kolkata in July

2005, focusing on research in the Buddhist manuscripts - "Buddhist Literary Heritage in India: Text and Context". Coordinated by the Mission's MRC in Kolkata, the Manuscript Library, University of Calcutta, the seminar dealt with various aspects of Buddhist literary tradition – scriptural,

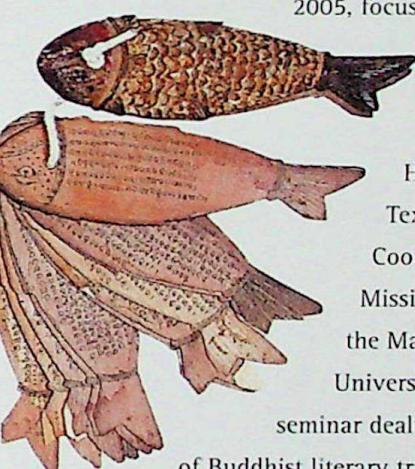
cultural, as well as on Buddhist literature in South and South Asia. An important result was consensus on need to compile a Union Catalogue of Buddhist Manuscripts with the Mission's assistance. The second national seminar took place at the Foundation for the Revitalization of Local Health Traditions in Bangalore on the medicinal manuscripts of India. This seminar was organized to develop an action plan to catalogue India's medical manuscripts.

In 2006, in keeping with the tradition, the Mission organized four more national seminars, dealing with scientific and medicinal knowledge, the celebrated *Shilpa* manuscripts, and Bharata's *Natyashastra*.

i. *Sameekshika Seminar at Chennai*

Kriti Rakshana: Manuscripts and Indian Knowledge Systems

In February 2006, the seminar was jointly organized by the Mission and the University of Madras, Department of



Outreach Programmes

Sanskrit and the Department of Tamil Literature. It focused on various aspects of Indian manuscripts, history, language and literature, science and technology, philosophy, folklore and medicinal knowledge.

ii. Sameekshika Seminar at Tanjore

Text, Practice and Aesthetics: Exploring the Manuscript Traditions of Indian Architecture

In August 2006, the Mission, together with the Tanjavur Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore and the International Institute of Saiva Siddhanta Studies, Dharmapuram Adheenam, organized a national seminar on the Shilpa manuscripts- Text, Practice and Aesthetics: Exploring the Manuscript Traditions of Indian Architecture. The seminar was coordinated by the renowned scholar, Dr. R. Nagaswamy. The highlight of the seminar was a series of practical demonstration on traditional crafts like bronze-casting, pith carving and the art of Tanjore paintings. A special aspect of the seminar was the combination of theoretical and textual discussions with practical demonstrations of palm leaf writing and traditional bronze-casting.

iii. Sameekshika Seminar at Sagar

The Manuscript Traditions of *Natyashastra*, Drama and Stage Performance

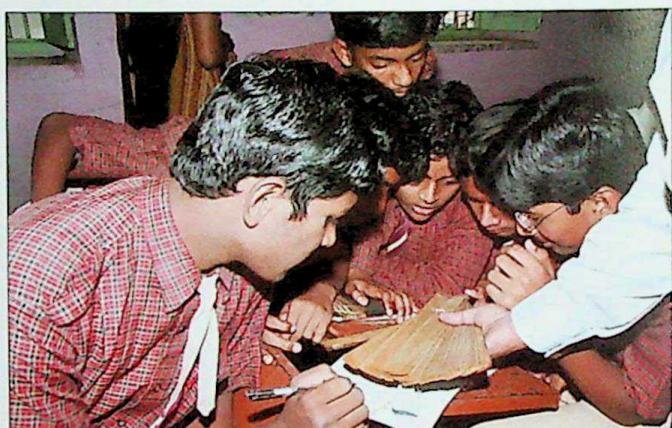
Between 18-20 November 2006, the sixth national seminar took place at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, on Bharata's *Natyashastra*, in collaboration with the Mission's MRC at Sagar, Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University. The seminar brought together a range of papers on the narrative traditions in various theatre genres, the dramatic texts, practices and traditions. The seminar was accompanied by performances in Sanskrit and Hindi, as well as lecture and demonstration in *Natyashastra*.

The Mission is in the process of publishing the first volume of *Sameekshika* on Buddhist Literary Traditions.

Manuscripts Extension Programme for School Children

In an effort to reach out to the young minds, the Mission organized its second school programme in 2006, in order

to promote awareness of and engagement with manuscripts at the school level. In 2005, NMM had organized a series of programmes for school children in Delhi, to bring alive the written word. It was an experimental programme called Living Words, a 45 minutes performance in Hindi called Laghu Mahabharata



Manuscripts Extension Programmes in Schools, Andhra Pradesh

Outreach Programmes

The Mission contributed to the NCERT text books for the primary section – the Rimjhim Series. For Class III, a chapter on "Kahaniyon ki Kahani" (The Story of Stories) was written last year. This year, the Mission has contributed to the text books for the primary section, with a renewed focus on the making of a manuscript.

This year, a similar programme at a more extensive scale was organized in Andhra Pradesh, by the National Mission for Manuscripts and The Children's Educational Academy. In 11 districts of the State, theatre-cum-workshops for school children were organized between 5 - 20 October. 126 schools and 1600 children participated in this programme, which brought together folk and textual traditions in the same platform for the first time, with the particular purpose of bringing in the school children in a platform where they could engage with manuscripts.

Districts in which the Manuscript Extension Programme in Schools was conducted

Hyderabad	Kurnool
Mahboobnagar	Nalgonda
Khammam	Machilipatnam
Ranga Reddy	Warrangal
Karimnagar	Nizamabad
Medak	

The programme in Andhra Pradesh integrated the local tradition of leather and wooden puppets, vibrant music, folk tales featuring the much known folk story of King Krishna Devaraya of Vijayanagara Kingdom and his courtier Tenali Raman. It also had two contemporary episodes involving school children. The theme centred on the tradition of handwritten texts, their importance, their neglect and the need to preserve them as repositories of knowledge. The characters in the play portrayed the importance of manuscripts and the need of preservation. Put in simple, lucid language and integrated with lively performances, the story was well-received and evoked interest and enthusiasm in the children.

Through puppetry performance, the young students were introduced to the idea of the making of manuscripts and their preservation. The first Theater-cum-Workshop

was launched in Hyderabad on 6 October, 2006 by Smt. N. Rajyalaxmi, Honourable Minister for School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The puppetry show was performed by the troupe of M. Jaganatham from Warrangal District. The puppets known as "Tholu Bolumma" (leather puppets) showcased the manner in which oral traditions get transcribed into the textual form.

The five-hour programme was crafted out in the form of interactive sessions with resource persons, through theatre and puppetry groups and exhibition of manuscripts. The participating students were exposed to the various aspects of recognizing, preserving and understanding the importance of manuscripts. They came up with questions about how palm leaves were used for writing in the past, what kind of pen and ink were used, the scripts and symbols etc.



Puppets from the Puppetry Performance in the Living Words Programme in Schools, Andhra Pradesh

Outreach Programmes

In Hyderabad the participating schools were:

1. CRPF School
2. New School Aizza
3. Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
4. Geetanjali Devalya
5. H.P.S. Begumpet
6. Oxford Grammar School
7. DAV, Safiogudda
8. Pailavi Model School
9. Govt. Girls school
10. Govt. boys school

Karimnagar

1. Govt. High School, Sapathgiri
2. Sagar Memorial High School
3. Govt. High School, Padmanagar
4. Govt. High School, MM Thota
5. Govt. High School, Khakanagadda
6. Govt. High School, Sureshnagar
7. Dhangavadi High School
8. GHS school
9. Govt. Girls School
10. Pragati High School
11. Boys Aided School
12. ZPSHS High School
13. Vaniket High School
14. Sadhna School

Khammam

1. Loyala High School
2. SFS high school
3. GHS Shanthinagar
4. HSNSC High School
5. Govt High School, Indiranagar
6. Baby Moon High School
7. GHS Rajendranagar
8. Sri Rama Krishna Vidalaya
9. Aravinda Vidalaya
10. Govt. Practising High School, Reob BaZar

11. GGH High School
12. Govt. High School, Gandhi Nagar
13. Little Angels High School
14. Sri ViVekaNanda Vidya Niketan
15. New Era High School
16. Nirmala High School
17. GHS Naya Bazzar
18. RR high school
19. Young Generation
20. Century School
21. Harvest School
22. Little Indians School
23. GHS, Khazipura
24. Jyoti Bal Mandir
25. GHS, Nsc Colony
26. New Era School
27. DRS
28. Andhra Girls high school
29. Jyoti Bal Mandir
30. St. Mary's High School
31. Gorke High School
32. Century High Profile School
33. Naya Bazzar Jounior College
34. Nirmala High School

Macchalipatnam

1. Nirmala high school
2. Municipal high school
3. Little Flower High School
4. Saint Francis High School
5. Amaleswari Vidya Nilyam
6. HYNY High School
7. LA Grammar High School
8. Govt Ramjee High School
9. CPM high School
10. MPL Girls High School

Mahboob Nagar

1. Rishi Vidalaya high school
2. New Rishi Concept School

3. Govt. Girls High School
4. BPMS School
5. Nagarjuna high School
6. Adarsha Bharti High School
7. Mansoor High School
8. Modern High School
9. Saraswati Shisu Mandir
10. Mahboobnagar Grammar School
11. Nagarjuna High School

Medak

1. Z.P.H.S. Pothireddypalle
2. Govt. High School, Rajampet
3. Govt. High School, Sanga Reddy
4. Saraswati Shisu Mandir
5. St. Anthony's High School
6. Karuna High School
7. St. Mary,s Grammar High School

Warrangal

1. Govt. High School, Basistha nagar
2. Govt. High School, Subedari
3. Oxford High School
4. Telugu High School
5. Govt. High School, Mavli Hule
6. Bapuji High School
7. Scholar's High School
8. Swami Vivekananda High school
9. Sainik High School
10. St. Joseph's Girls High School
11. Kumara Pally High School
12. All Saint's High School
13. Vagadevi High School
14. New Loyala High School
15. GHS Palem High School
16. Govt. Girls High School
17. Standarsd High School

Outreach Programmes

National Debate for the Youth

In 2006, the Mission extended its outreach programmes to the youth of the country, through a nation-wide 'National Debate Competition for Youth'—a national level debating competition for university students.

The debate programme is organized at two levels. The first and preliminary round is taking place in 9 cities across the country. To cover the entire country as far as possible, the area is divided into 5 zones and 2 cities have been selected within each zone. Each city will host participants from the States marked out for it. The teams for preliminary rounds are selected by inviting entries in form of a qualifying essay. Ten best essays would be invited to participate in the preliminary rounds. The best team from each preliminary round will compete in the finals at New Delhi. The preliminary rounds of the debate is taking place in four zones. The finalists of the preliminary rounds will compete in the National Finals at New Delhi, scheduled in April 2007.

The entries are invited in form of a qualifying essay and ten best essays are invited to compete in the preliminary rounds at various centres across the country. The preliminary rounds for the north zone (covering Delhi, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh) are taking place in Varanasi on 11 January 2007. The event in Varanasi is being held in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University.

The preliminary rounds for west zone are scheduled to take place in Ahmedabad (in Collaboration with Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad) and Ujjain (with Scindia Oriental research Institute) in the middle of January 2007. Participants will be invited from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Through these nation-wide debate competitions among the youth, the Mission seeks to initiate and encourage a critical understanding of the textual heritage of the country among the youths. Following two outreach programmes targeted at school children, through dance and puppetry, this is the first attempt of the Mission to bring the youth within its fold. Debate was seen as the best method to make space for critical discussions and understanding.

The preliminary rounds of the Debate have taken place in three cities, Varanasi (North Zone), Ujjain and Ahmedabad (West Zone). In Varanasi, the Debate has been organized in collaboration with Benaras Hindu University, in Ujjain with Vikram University and in Ahmedabad with Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad.

Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word: An Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at the Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt

In October 2006, the Mission's months long efforts towards organizing an Exhibition of Indian manuscripts, the first one of its width and depth, were realized in Frankfurt. The Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word, a display containing ninety objects – largely manuscripts and a few writing

instruments and devices, was inaugurated on 1 October 2006 by Her Excellency Mrs. Meera Shankar, the Indian Ambassador to Germany. Initiated as a part of the India Guest of Honour Programme at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2006 coordinated by the National Book Trust, the Exhibition carried on beyond the week-long Fair till 7 January 2007.

Zonal Divisions of the National Debate for Youth

A. North Zone

1. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana
Centre: Hoshiarpur
2. New Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh
Centre: Varanasi

B. South Zone

1. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka
Centre: Tirupati
2. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry
Centre: Kalady

C. West Zone

1. Rajasthan, Gujarat
Centre: Ahmedabad
2. Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh
Centre: Ujjain

D. East Zone

1. Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar
Centre: Kolkata
2. Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh
Centre: Bhubaneshwar

E. North-East Zone

1. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland
Centre: Guwahati

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Consisting of more than ninety objects from over fifteen repositories and private collections, the display was truly representative of India's various manuscript traditions.

From palm leaf to paper, from the veterinary science of elephants to legendary romances, from the Brahmi of 2nd century BC and the 15th century Archaic Meitei script (Manipur) to the most recent Devanagari, from a garland shaped manuscript of Gita Govinda to an accordion shaped manuscript featuring Yantras, and from the plainest manuscripts to the most exquisitely illustrated palm leaves and finely painted paper texts, this exhibition explored the Indian writing traditions in all their dimensions. Further, the display also included instruments and devices used in different regions to prepare manuscripts and in learning how to write. Employing rich colours such as brick red, copper, turmeric and Persian blue for the display cases and walls, the

exhibition brought alive the original milieu in which these manuscripts would have been created and used.

The Exhibition was organized by the National Mission for Manuscripts and hosted at the Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Art), in Frankfurt. The inauguration of the event was attended by a number of dignitaries other than Her Excellency Mrs. Meera Shankar, the Indian Ambassador to

Germany. These included Prof. Bipan Chandra (Chairman of NBT), Mr. Sudeep Banerjee (Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource and Development), Mr. Amit Dasgupta (first Secretary, Indian Embassy, Germany), Mr. K. Jayakumar (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Culture), Mrs. Nuzhat Hassan (Director, NBT). Personnel involved with the organization of the event were also present, namely Dr. Ulrich Schneider (Director, Museum für Angewandte Kunst) and Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan (Director, National Mission



Mrs. Ambika Soni, Minister for Tourism and Culture at the Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt, accompanied by Mr. Jayakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture, (right), Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Mission Director, NMM and Dr. Schneider, Director, Museum of Applied Arts, Frankfurt (Left)

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for Manuscripts), as were Mrs. Elisabeth Haindl (Head of the Cultural Board of the City of Frankfurt), Dr. Raffael D. Gadebusch (Deputy Director, Museum fuer Indische Kunst, Berlin) and Dr. Helmut Gold (Director, Museum of Communication, Frankfurt).

Mrs. Ambika Soni, Minister for Tourism and Culture, also visited the exhibition on 3 October, during her trip to Germany, and appreciated the range of manuscripts on display. Other eminent individuals who visited the exhibition included Gulzar, Mahasweta Devi and Prof. Mushirul Hassan. The exhibition was on display at the Riverside Museum of Applied Art for more than three months, between 1 October 2006 and 7 January 2006.

Prof. B.N. Goswamy, the eminent art historian, was commissioned as the Curator of the Exhibition and Mr. Parthiv Shah designed the Exhibition. The Mission collaborated with Niyogi Offset Pvt. Ltd. to produce a Catalogue of the Exhibition titled *The Word is Sacred; Sacred is the Word – Indian Manuscript Tradition* which is now available in bookstores across the country. With an extended Introduction and several entries by Prof. B.N. Goswamy and contributions by several other

The collections that contributed display items for this Exhibition were as follows: Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology (Delhi), Government Museum and Art Gallery (Chandigarh), Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre (Chennai), Haryana Prantiya Puratattva Sangrahalaya (Jhajjar), Jagdish and Kamla Mittal Museum of Indian Art (Hyderabad), Krishna Kant Handiqui Library (Guwahati), Kurukshetra University (Haryana), Lalbai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology (Ahmedabad), Manipur State Archives (Imphal), National Museum (New Delhi), Oriental Research Institute (Mysore), Oriental Research Institute (Tirupati), Orissa State Museum (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute (Jodhpur), Sanskriti Pratishtan (New Delhi), and Prof. Harsha Dehejia's private collection (Canada).

individuals, the bilingual publication also contains able German translations by Dr. Stephan Schulenburg (Curator, Islamic and East Asian Art), and other personnel of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst.

The Exhibition was divided into six parts, highlighting various aspects of Indian manuscripts may be emphasized in turn. The first part, "From Clay to Copper", showcased the various materials on which the written word may be found, including terracotta, copper plates, bamboo leaves, palm leaves, brass et al. The second part, The "Making of a Manuscript", consisted of instruments used in preparing manuscripts, such as inkpots, styli, qalamdaans, manuscript stands and others. "Fields of Learning", the third section, highlighted the varied intellectual content of Indian manuscripts and included such texts as *Rigveda Padapatha*, *Nrityaranganavikarnam*, *Gajayurveda* and *Ganitaprahalika*. The sacred texts, those that have been considered the word, or even the body of the lord, were displayed in the fourth section – "Veneration, Submission, Worship". The fifth section, "Word and Image", focused on the illustrative and illuminative traditions of



Exhibits at Word is Sacred; Sacred is the Word- Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt



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manuscript preparation and featured beautifully illustrated texts such as the *Kalpasutra*, the *Balakanda* of the *Ramayana* in Mysore style, *Rasamanjari* and the *Diwan-i-Hafiz*. "Royal Commands and Plain Records", the last segment of the exhibition consisted of documents written for administrative and historical purposes such as Mughal farrmans, specimens of calligraphy and regional records.

Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India Programme

In 2005, the Mission had identified a set of 45 manuscripts with unique heritage value, and designated them as Manuscript Treasures of India. Manuscripts were selected for their outstanding value to humanity and also for their contribution to Indian life, development of Indian thought and culture, and the history they represent. The final selection of the manuscripts was done through an Expert Committee, keeping in mind the criteria of the thematic richness of the manuscript, its historical value and antiquity, its relevance in the regional history, its outstanding aesthetic value and whether it has been published or not.

Recognition of a manuscript as a 'treasure' would entail special measures for its preservation and access, including special storage arrangements, preventive and curative conservation treatment, digitization of the manuscripts, and grants to publish research/critical editions on the selected manuscript.

Institutions from which Manuscripts have been collected for the Declaration as the catalogue *Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India*

North

- Directorate of State Archaeology and State Museum, Jammu and Kashmir
- National Archives, New Delhi
- National Museum, New Delhi
- Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh
- Rampur Raza Library, Rampur
- Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala
- Vishveshvaranand Vishva Bandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur

East

- Asiatic Society, Kolkata
- Calcutta University, Kolkata
- Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna
- K. K. Handique Library, Guwahati
- Manipur State Archives, Imphal
- Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneshwar

West

- Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur
- Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad
- Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

South

- Oriental Research Institute, Mysore
- Kannada University, Hampi
- Oriental Research Institute, Tirupati
- French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
- Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, Thiruvananthapuram

The Mission has brought out a catalogue, *Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India*, which will be released in February 2007.

Nominations to the UNESCO 'Memory of the World Register'

The Mission in 2006 nominated four Indian manuscripts for inclusion in UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Register. Under this programme, UNESCO provides recognition to the most valuable documentary heritage of the world and facilitates its preservation and universal access to it. Moreover, efforts are made to increase awareness of the significance of these records.

In 2005, the Shaiva manuscripts in Pondicherry were awarded the status of UNESCO's Memory of the World in an application jointly submitted by the French Institute of Pondicherry, Centre for Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient (EFEO) and the National Mission for Manuscripts.

This year, the Mission has submitted 5 nominations to UNESCO:

- Shilpa manuscripts at Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur
- Gilgit manuscripts at the National Archives of India, New Delhi and the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir
- Collection of Rigveda manuscripts at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune
- Diwan-i-Hafiz manuscripts in Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library,

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- Patna, Rampur Raza Library, Rampur and Maulana Azad Library in Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- Abhinavagupta manuscripts scattered in 20 libraries across the country

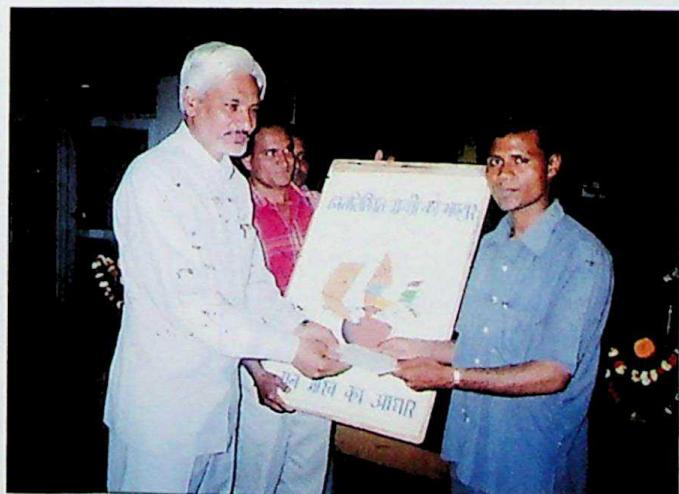
The UNESCO has shortlisted two of the nominations for consideration, the Rigveda manuscripts at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, and the Gilgit manuscripts at the National Archives of India, New Delhi and the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir.

Manuscripts Week Celebrations

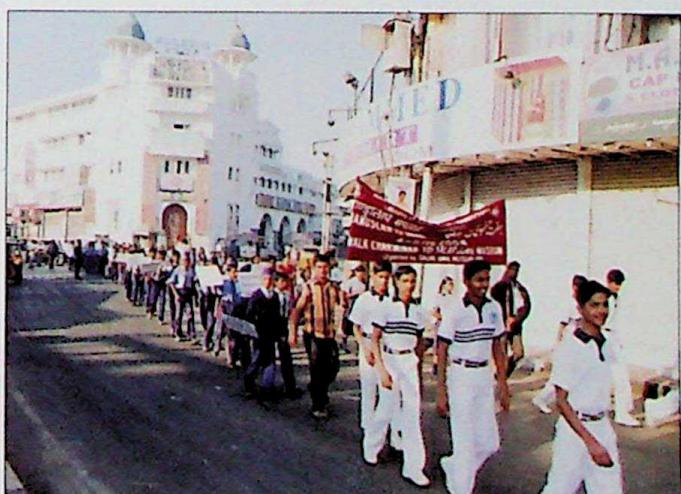
In 2006, under the aegis of the Mission, 'Manuscripts Week' was celebrated at various MRC-s and MCC-s across the country. Through exhibitions, rallies, seminars, workshops, poster competitions, practical demonstrations of manuscript conservation etc, the Mission sought to promote consciousness about manuscripts and the need to preserve them. The celebrations saw an enthusiastic participation of students and local people. The institutions where the celebrations took place were:

1. Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Tanjore (3-10 February 2006)
2. Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati (2 February 2006)
3. Kundakunda Jnanapitha, Indore (7-14 February 2006)

4. Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna (2 Feb 2006)
5. Digamber Jain Atishay Kshetra Shrimahaviraji, Jaipur (28 February)
6. Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad (4-11 February 2006)
7. Brindavan Research Institute, Brindavan (4-11 Feb. 2006)
8. Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya, Enathur (11 February 2006)
9. Thunchan Memorial Trust, Thirur (1-5 February 2006)
10. Kurukshetra University (28 February 2006)
11. Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy, Haridwar (31 January- 2 February, 2006)
12. Government Museum Manuscript Conservation Centre, Chennai (21 February 2006)
13. Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya, Varanasi (2 February 2006)
14. Lalbhai and Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Navarangpur (2 February 2006)
15. Keladi Museum and Historical Research Bureau, Keladi, Karnataka (21 February, 2006)
16. Department of Manuscriptology, Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka (17-20 July, 2006)
17. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh (5 – 12 February 2006)
18. Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute, Hyderabad (4-9 February 2006)
19. Sambalpur University, department of History, Orissa (11 February 2006)



Poster Competition at the Manuscript Week Celebrations at Kurukshetra University,



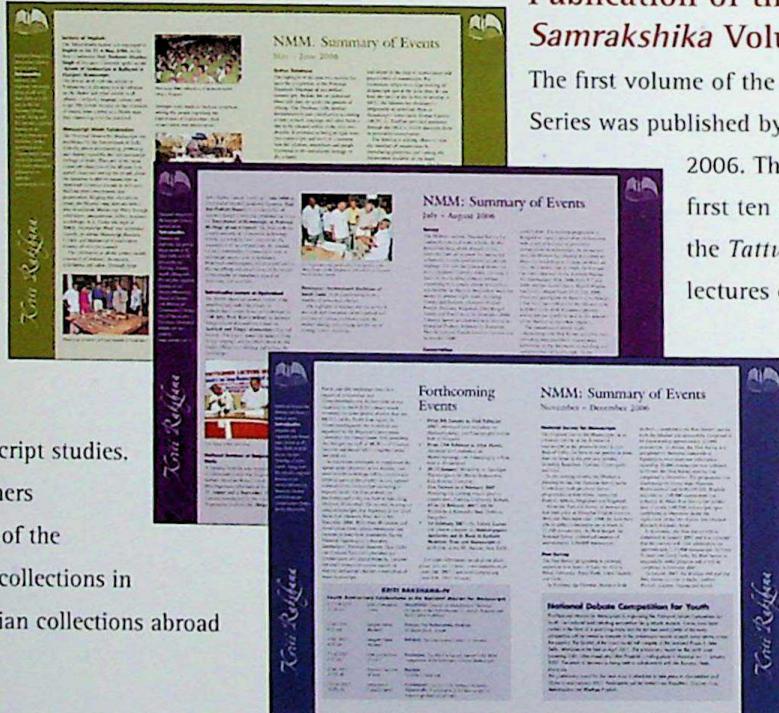
Procession organized by Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad as part of the Manuscript Week Celebrations, February 2006

Publications

In 2006, the Mission took significant strides in publications, bringing out the first volumes of its lecture series, seminar series, and the critical edition series. Two catalogues of the International Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt and the National Treasures were brought out. With these, the Mission attempted at generating access to the knowledge reserve of Indian manuscripts, covering critical analysis of texts, review of conservation methodologies, writing traditions in different corners of the country, and textual and pictographic study of manuscripts across the country. For the coming year, the Mission has chalked out a wider publications programme.

Objectives

- Promotion of access to the knowledge content of Indian manuscripts through encouraging publications of lectures, seminar papers etc.
- Encouragement of research and publications in manuscript studies, among young researchers
- Creation of catalogues of the hitherto uncatalogued collections in the country and in Indian collections abroad



Methodology

- Publishing the bi-monthly of the National Mission for Manuscripts, *Kriti Rakshana*, to bring together works of scholars as well as young researchers and field experiences and projects of the Mission
- Publishing the lectures delivered by renowned scholars in manuscript studies, under the *Tattvabodha* Lecture Series
- Publishing the volumes of the national seminars organized by the Mission in different states under the *Sameekshika* Series

- Initiating the publication of the seminars in conservation practices under the *Samrakshika* Series
- Publishing the *Kritibodha* Series of critical editions of important texts
- Publishing the catalogues of the manuscripts exhibitions the Mission organizes in India and abroad, and the catalogues of hitherto uncatalogued collections of Indian manuscripts
- Bringing out more updated guidelines for digitization and conservation standards
- Promoting publication of research papers on the textual tradition of India

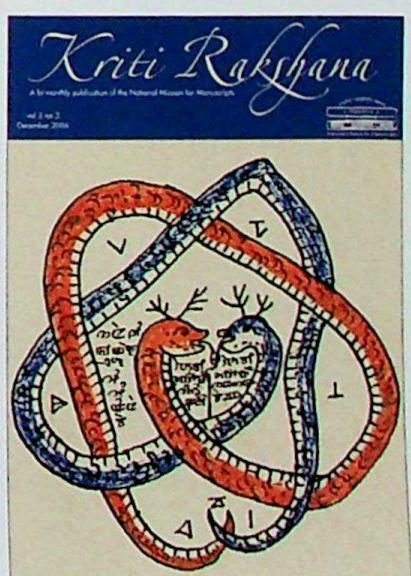
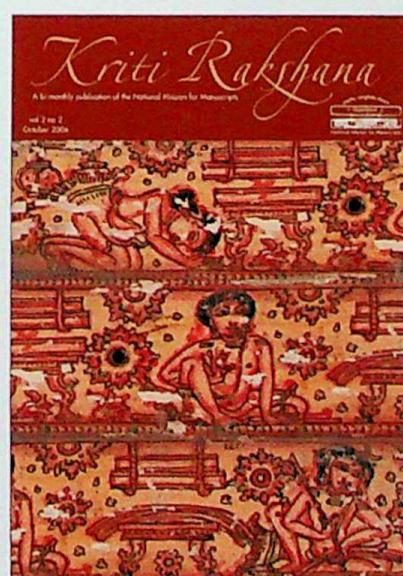
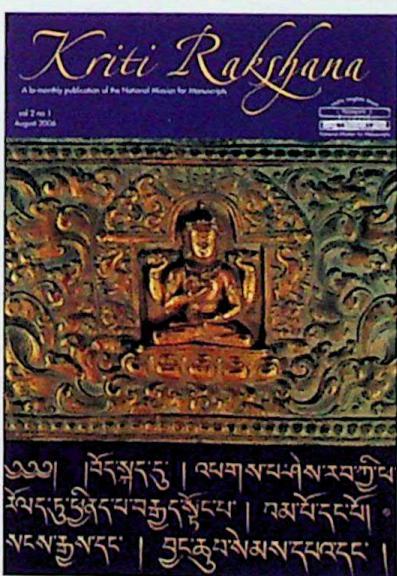
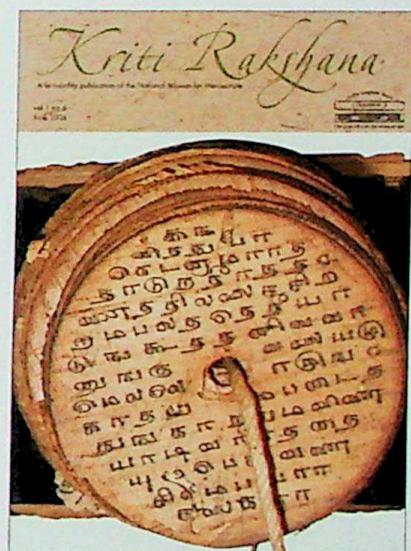
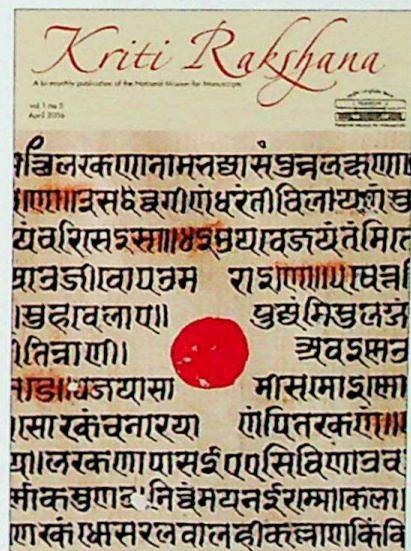
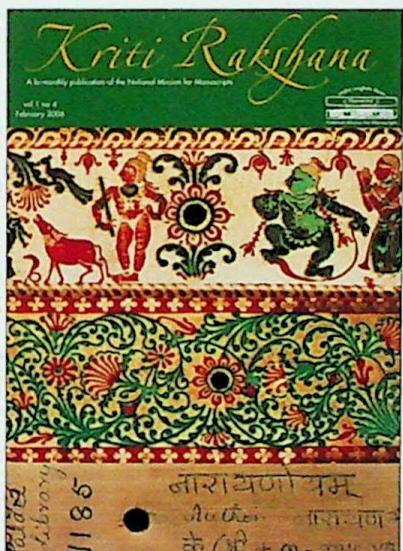
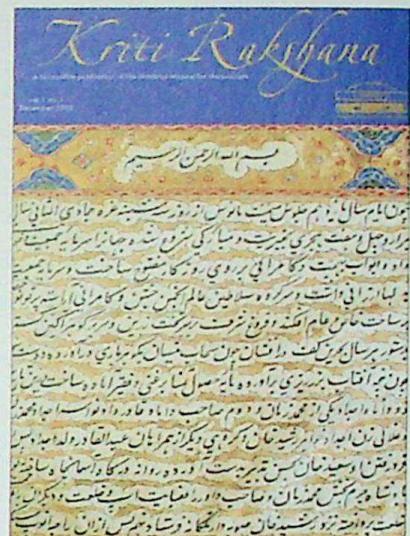
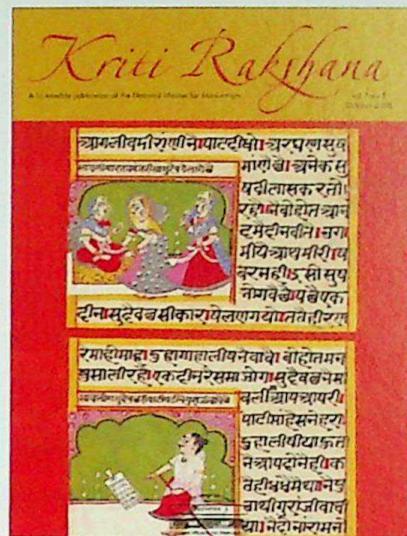
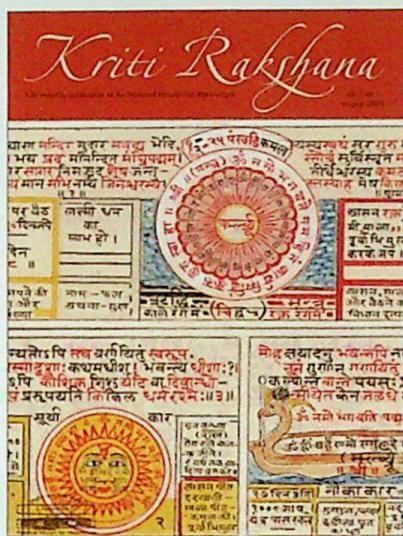
Publication of the *Tattvabodha* and *Samrakshika* Volumes

The first volume of the *Tattvabodha* Lecture Series was published by the Mission in September 2006. The volume, a set of the first ten lectures delivered under the *Tattvabodha* banner, contains lectures delivered by some of the most renowned scholars, including Lokesh Chandra, Kapila Vatsyayan, R. Champakalakshmi, G. N. Devy, Namwar Singh, Irfan Habib, Sheldon Pollock, M. S. Valiathan, D. P. Chattopadhyaya and M. K. Byrski.

Each illuminated on

their respective areas of expertise, covering a range of subjects, from textual traditions to oral traditions, from Bhakti texts to medical texts, etc. Significant issues were brought forward in some of the lectures, relating to the gradual loss of the power to read the texts and scripts of the past, threats to the preservation of Sanskrit knowledge in the era of globalisation, and also, the complex linguistic traditions of the country, often unrepresented in the 'written' heritage.

Publications



Publications

List of Papers in the *Samrakshika* Vol.-I

1. Learning and Aphasia: Reflections on India's Oral Traditions – G.N. Devy
2. The Sacred Thread – Heather Brown
3. An Introduction to the Traditional Practices for the Control of Bio-deterioration of Manuscripts – K.K Gupta
4. Indigenous Conservation Practices for Palm Leaf Manuscripts in India – C.N.K Alahakoon
5. Traditional Method of Sanchipat Making and Preparation of Ink in Ancient Assam – Bhupen Goswami
6. Sanchipat Tradition: A Study in the Majuli Island of Assam – Utpal Das
7. Scientific Analysis of Traditional Indigenous Methods of Manuscript Preservation – Sudhendu Mandal and Sanjay Kumar Maiti
8. The Use of Turmeric in the Preservation of Manuscripts – S. Subbaraman
9. Traditional methods of Conservation of Paper Manuscripts: As Gleaned from Two Persian Texts – Imtiaz Ahmad
10. Awareness and Practices of Manuscript Preservation in Ancient and Medieval India: Literary Evidence – Shreenand L Bapat
11. Traditional Practices and Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Tamil Nadu – V. Jeyaraj
12. Manuscripts Conservation in the Shaivite Mathas of the Erode district of Tamil Nadu – C. Maheswaran
13. Manuscript Conservation Practices at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata – S.K. Das
14. Palm Leaf Manuscripts and Indigenous Conservation Practices at the Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur – P. Perumal
15. The Manuscripts of the Tawang Monastery – Maltesh Motebennur and Nawang Phuntso
16. Some Manuscript Conservation Methods in India with special reference to the Rampur Raza Library – W.H. Siddiqui
17. Paper Making at Sangana: Changes Over Time – Ritu Jain
18. The Jain Approach to Conservation of Manuscripts – Jitendra B. Shah
19. Kadathas of Karnataka: An Introduction – Usha Suresh
20. Indigenous Methods of Conservation of Manuscripts in Manipur – K. Sushila Devi
21. Demise and Revival of Forgotten Manuscript Traditions – Anupam Sah

Samrakshika, Published by D. K. Printworld Pvt Ltd. Published in New Delhi, 2006

The first volume of the Mission's *Samrakshika* seminar series, Indigenous Methods and Manuscripts Preservation, was published in 2006. It contains proceedings of the seminar 'Oral Traditions and Indigenous Methods of Preservation and Conservation of Manuscripts' organized at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi in February 2005. This volume is a collection of a set of 21 papers, covering a plethora of issues on the indigenous practices and systems of manuscript conservation across the country, from palm leaf, paper and sanchipat manuscripts to the conservation practices in various renowned institutions like the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, Rampur

List of essays in the *Tattvabodha* Vol.-I

Manuscripts: Context and Relevance

1. Rare Indian Manuscripts in Asian Countries – Lokesh Chandra
2. Writing and the use of Books in the age of Persian Manuscripts – Irfan Habib
3. Sanskrit Knowledge on the eve of Colonialism and at the Dawn of Globalisation – Sheldon Pollock
4. Is the Unpublished Manuscript Heritage of India Relevant to Contemporary Academia? – Kapila Vatsyayan

Manuscripts and Oral Traditions

5. Writing and Aphasia: Reflections on India's Oral Traditions – G.N. Devy
6. Vyasa Aur Ganesha – Namwar Singh

Textual Traditions

7. Bhakti and Tamil Textual Tradition – R. Chamapakalakshmi
8. A Tribute to the Text and Context of the Natyashastra – M. C. Byrski
9. Glimpses of India's Medical History – M.S. Valiathan

Knowledge and Beyond

10. Anthropos Measuring Atomas and Cosmos: Some Reflections – D.P. Chattopadhyaya

Tattvabodha, Published by: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd. Published in New Delhi, 2006

Publications

Raza Library, the Shaivite Mathas in South India, indigenous practices in Manipur etc.

In the next few months, the second volume of the Tattvabodha and the Samrakshika volumes are due. The Mission is also in the process of publishing the sets of papers presented during its national seminars under the Sameekshika seminars.

Publication of *Kritibodha*- the Critical Edition Series

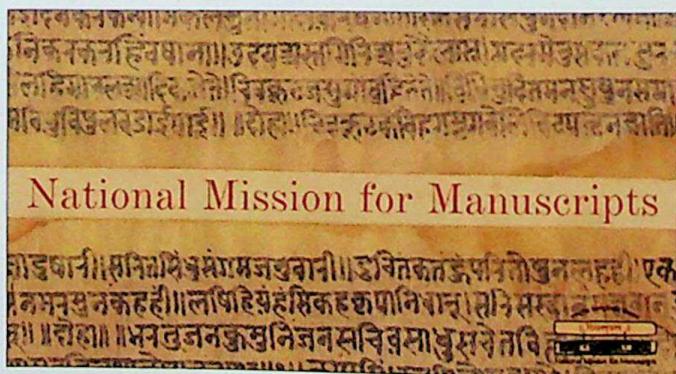
The Mission has published the first of its critical edition series, the *Kritibodha*, in 2006. Edited by Prof. B. B. Chaubey, this bi-lingual edition is a critical commentary on *Vadhulagrhyagama*.

***Kriti Rakshana*, the Bi-monthly Publication of the National Mission for Manuscripts**

Kriti Rakshana is the bi-monthly publication of National Mission for Manuscripts. Started in August 2005, it is published once every two months and is distributed free of cost, to all universities and public libraries in the country. It is also sent to select scholars and foreign institutes that have an interest in Indian manuscripts.

The regular features of *Kriti Rakshana*, which appear in every issue are listed below:

- Quiz on Indian manuscripts – to generate interest in various aspects of manuscripts
- Institute in Focus – an overview of an Indian organization that has worked with manuscripts over a period of many decades or centuries
- Manuscript in Focus – a brief description of a significant



Brochure of National Mission for Manuscripts

manuscript/text and its contents

- Summary of Events - past and present activities of the Mission, for those interested in knowing the areas in which the Mission works

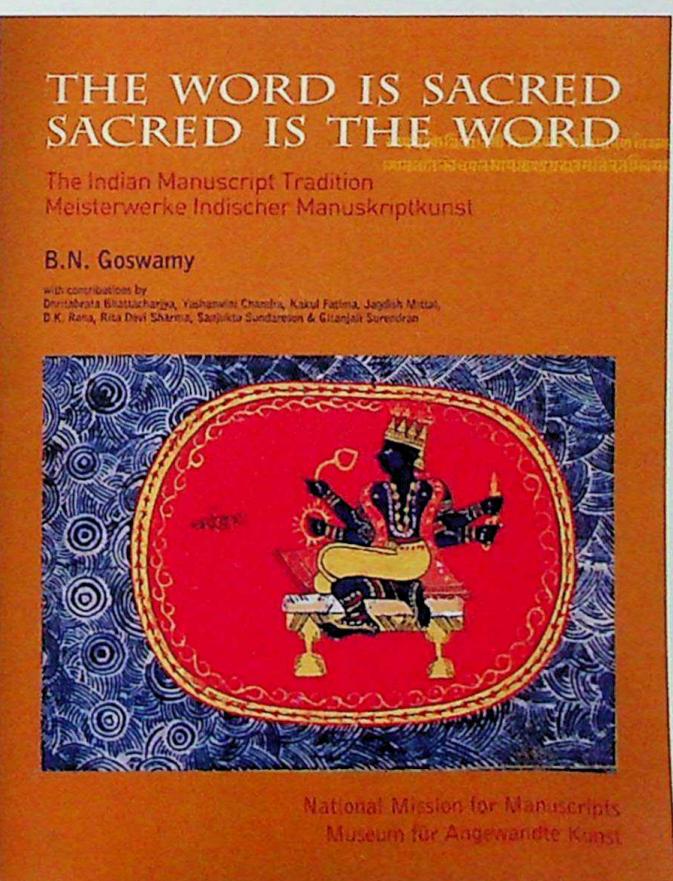
In 2006, the Mission published six issues of *Kriti Rakshana*, bringing together a range of issues relating to manuscripts.

Publication of Catalogues

In 2006, the Mission published two catalogues, first, the "Catalogue of the International Exhibition of Indian Manuscripts at Frankfurt: Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word", and the other, "Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India".

i. Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word:

The catalogue of the International Exhibition contains descriptive and pictographic analysis of more than 90 objects, collected from 16 repositories and private collections across the country. The Catalogue is an exposition of a range of materials, scripts, illustrations, calligraphies, texts and



The Legacy of Words

Ancient manuscripts, stumbling down from dusty shelves in homes and temples, are being looked upon with renewed interest as preservation efforts gain momentum ■ MAITREYEE HANIDIQUE

PROTECT ME FROM ONE WATER

script and from four hands
Above all, protect me, Lord, from
falling into the hands of a fool.

Soham in the 16th century, a scribe humours
this down after inscribing a 6-
length epic in parched sheets of
cotton. And now, this plea of this ancient
manuscript is finally getting heard.

Manuscript preservation is suddenly
being looked upon with renewed interest.
They are tumbling down from
shelves in homes of collectors and temples
as surveys under the government-backed
National Mission for Manuscripts
scour the country.

Since February 2001, around 12
men and women have been touring
across the country to create a national
database of surviving manuscripts, so old that the written words sometimes
crumble to dust.

Some states like Jharkhand have
yielded more than five thousand manuscripts. While
Madhya Pradesh has drawn up
20,000 documents, Orissa boasts nearly 35,
lakh manuscripts. Bounties include a rare Bangla Kali matrika Shakti hymns written on a piece of
cloth and a Holi Quran composed in 10
brass plates. Others include chapters on
arithmetic puzzles, special manuscripts
on how to tend to horses and a thesis on
Indian architecture.

At least three manuscripts relating to
Jayadeva's *Gita Govinda* demonstrate how
scriptural documents can be made unique.
For example, a 10th-century manuscript from
Orissa boasts nearly 35,000 pages, while the
earliest known script dating back to 3rd century BC, as well as the Kharosthi and the
Persian-Arabic rock.

But it was the finding of birth bark
Buddhist scrolls, spotted in old jars by Tibetan
refugees, that stirred the academic world in
1974. While several international libraries
brought the ancient fragments, India's
Gandhi National Centre for Arts took
the initiative to document them. It collated
surviving documents in 50 scripts and
450 languages in India. Its Mission's task is to build a database
of these. By December, information
on 1.6 million manuscripts, including
the name of the text, location &

including Berlin's Staats-Bibliothek, which
possesses one of the largest manuscript
collections outside India at 7,000.

India's diversity of scripts and lan-

guages will now travel to Frankfurt's Mu-

seum für Angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Art).

Showcasing more than 90 objects
from over 15 repositories and private col-

lections, the exhibition, titled "The Word", is

curated by eminent art historian B.N. Goswami and de-

signed by Ahmedabad-based artist Parviz

Shah.

Exhibits range from palm leaves to

clay to copper in scripts across

time and space: ancient Brahmi, Manipuri,

Persian, modern Devanagari. "But the

biggest message conveyed," says Sudha

Gopalakrishnan, director, National Mis-

sion of Manuscripts, "is the Indian rever-

ence for the written word."

All religious traditions are represented,

except Guru Granth Sahib, which can

only be included if copyright issues are

resolved, says Sudha Gopalakrishnan. "Aurangzeb chose to live out his last years on
what he earned making copies of the Holy
Quran. Even today an Indian child instinctively touches a book to her forehead if she

has dropped it on the ground. And the habit

continues into adulthood."

There is little that is not known or prac-

ticed in sophisticated modern printing

technology in India today. But the centuries

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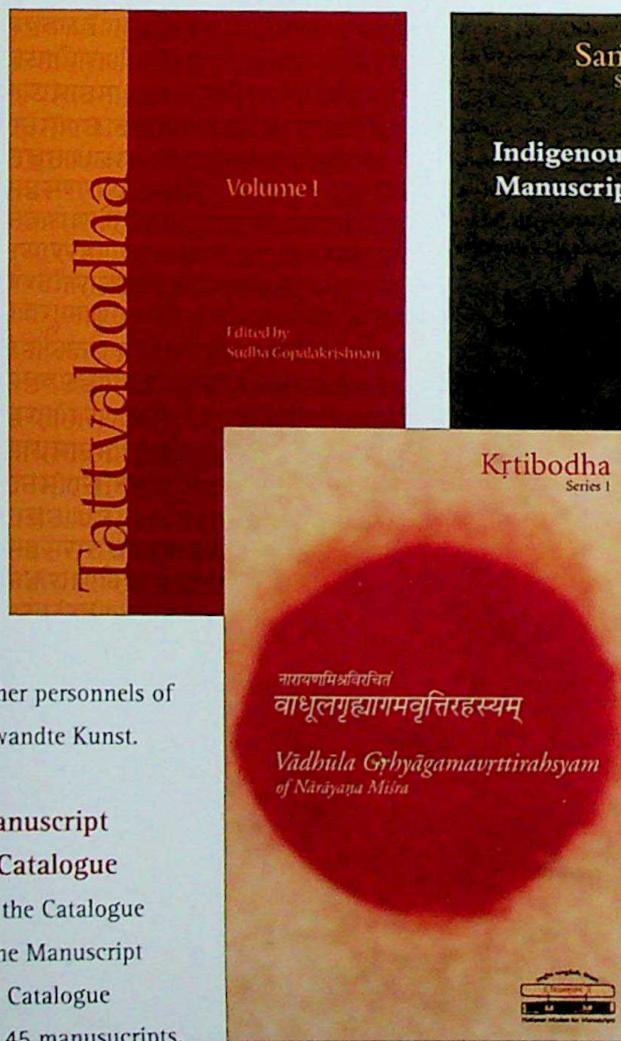
Publications

In February 2005, the Mission published 2 working papers called Guidelines for Digitization of Manuscripts and Basic Minimum Standards for Conservation of Manuscripts. The first of such publications by the Mission, the aim was to set benchmarks for manuscript conservation and digitization. Through this exercise, the Mission has established its standards and make them available to the public.

also, various instruments and objects associated with the making of manuscripts.

The Mission collaborated with the Niyogi Offset Pvt. Ltd. to produce a Catalogue of the Exhibition titled "The Word is Sacred; Sacred is the Word- Indian Manuscript Tradition", which is now available in bookstores across the country. Prof. B.N. Goswamy, the eminent art historian, curated the Exhibition and Mr. Parthiv Shah was responsible for the Exhibition Design. With an extended Introduction and several entries by Prof. B.N. Goswamy and contributions by several other individuals, the bilingual publication also contains German translations by Dr. Stephan Schulenburg (Curator, Islamic and East Asian Art) and other personals of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst.

ii. *Vijnananidhi: Manuscript Treasures of India Catalogue*
The Mission published the Catalogue of the *Vijnananidhi: The Manuscript Treasures of India*. The Catalogue carries information on 45 manuscripts,



New Catalogus Catalogorum

The Mission has been instrumental in reviving New Catalogus Catalogorum project (NCC) originally begun by the Madras University in 1935 by initiating the completion of the remaining volumes. Under the project, the existing volumes of the NCC are also being revised. So far work has been completed in 24 volumes, and in 2006-07, another eight volumes have been keyed in. It has been proposed that the remaining 10-15 volumes be completed in the coming year. The data captured from all volumes would be put in the Database, to be available online. The NCC Project will be made available in print format as well as electronic CD-ROM format shortly.

collected from 21 institutions across the country. These manuscripts were selected by an Expert Committee in 2005, for designation as "treasures", with regard to the

significance and relevance they have on the textual traditions, history and aesthetics of the regions they belong to.

Forthcoming Projects in Publication of Catalogues

In 2007, the Mission plans to publish more catalogues

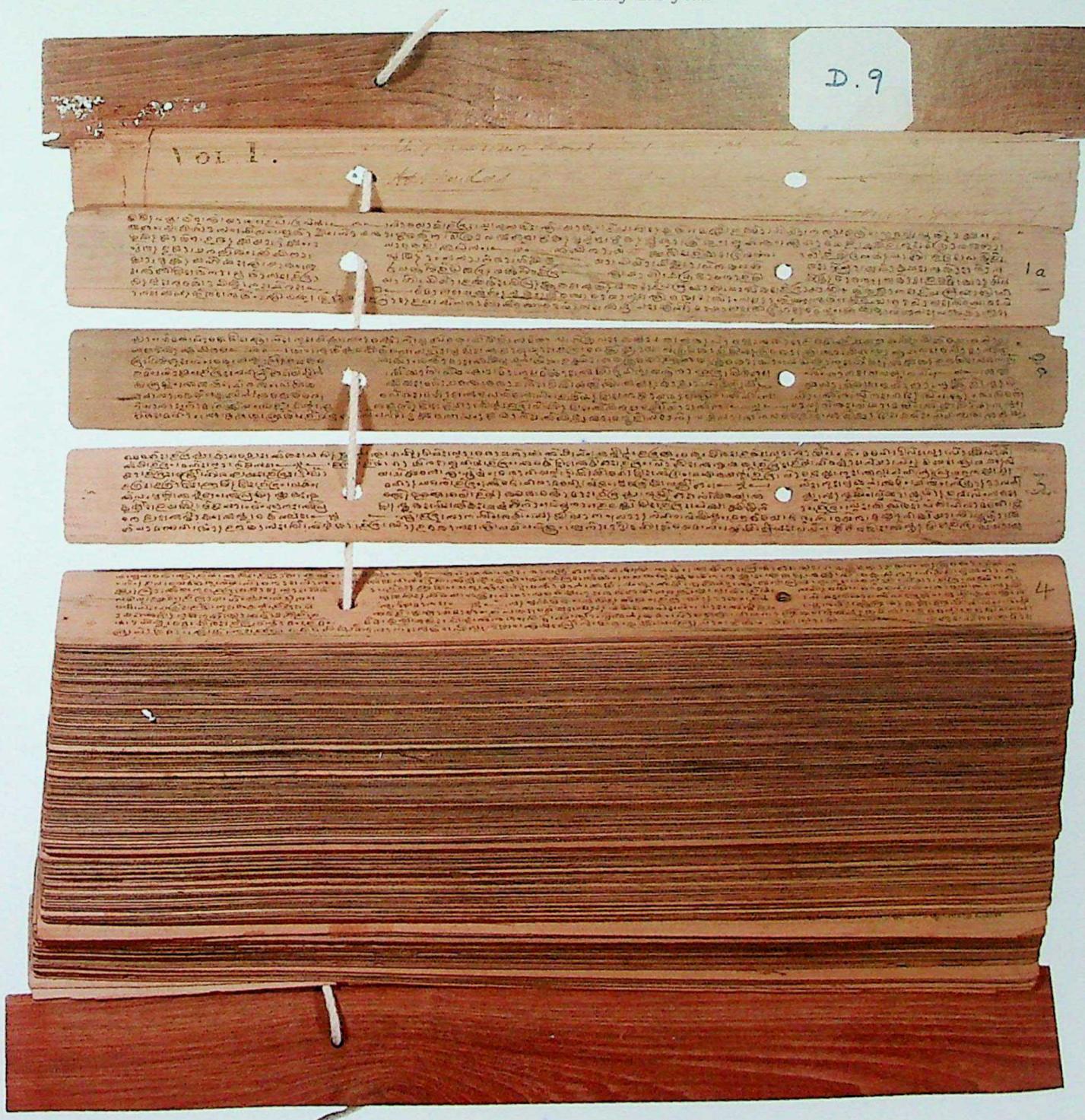
of manuscript collections. The following projects are currently under consideration:

- A catalogue of manuscripts compiled by the late Dr. K. V. Sarma on the private collections in South India
- A catalogue of manuscripts related to musicology (vocal, instrumental and dance) from Kerala by Dr. Leela Omcherry

National Manuscripts Library

One of the objectives set forth in the Project Document released at the launching of the Mission is to establish a National Manuscripts Library in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the national nodal agency of the Mission.

It is envisaged that the National Manuscripts Library would contain digital resources, books and donated manuscripts with state-of-the-art facilities for teachers, students, researchers and interested persons. With the resources already collected, the Mission will launch the Library this year.



The Mission over the Last Four Years

No.	Activity	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	MRC-s	15	27	41	47
2	MCC-s	7	20	26	33
3	MPC-s	-	-	18	32
4	MCPC-s	-	-	70	232
5	Manuscriptology (Basic)	-	3	6	9
6	Manuscriptology (Advanced)	-	-	1	5
7	National Surveys	-	3	12	20
8	Post Survey	-	-	3	8
9	Digitization (pages)	-	1,65,000	8,05,400	16,75,000
10	National Electronic Database	88,569	2,91,132	10,61,243	17,64,439



Manuscript Resource Centres

1. Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh

The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies has been working as the nodal resource centre for Buddhism in the local area of Leh for several years. Formerly known as the 'School of Buddhist Philosophy', this institute was established in 1959. Its main objective is to develop a comprehensive knowledge of Buddhism. This includes the study of ancient shastras, culture, philosophy, history and languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit, English, Tibetan and Pali. It also preserves and publishes rare Buddhist manuscripts and facilitates research on Buddhism. The Institute is dedicated to instilling the wisdom of Buddhist thought, literature, and arts in young students.

The MRC signed the MOU with the Mission in August 2003 and has since then, done active work in the difficult terrains of Ladakh, an area scattered with Buddhist monasteries, the storehouses of manuscripts. The MRC has so far conducted surveys in 679 institutions and private collections and prepared electronic data for 3595 manuscripts of Tibetan, Bhoti and Buddhist manuscripts. It has conducted 3 publicity programmes which received a phenomenal response from the people of this region.

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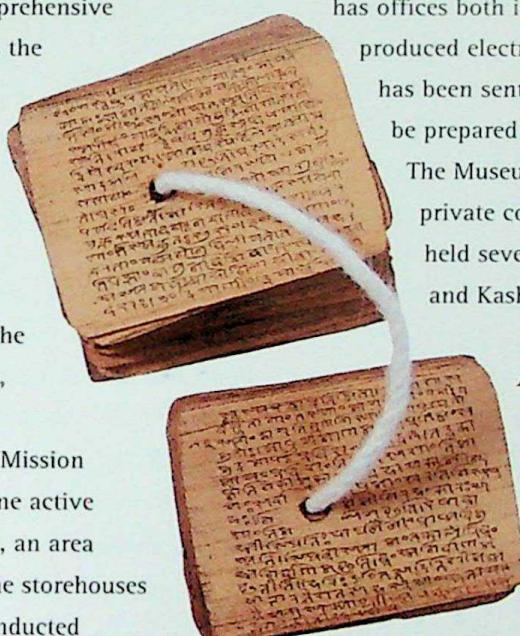
Dr. Kockak Namgyal
Director, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies
Choglamsar, Leh (Laddak)-194001
Tele-Fax: 01982-264391
Mr. Tsering Muthup (AO) – 09419177543

2. Directorate of State Archaeology, Archives & Museum, Srinagar

Manuscripts were written in several languages on various materials such as birch bark, hand-made paper, wood, stone, cloth and terracotta. These manuscripts covered almost all important aspects of the contemporary times such as religion,

history, philosophy, literature, medicine, arts, geography and literature.

The MRC at the Museum began its association with the Mission in August 2003. The MRC has the mandate of collecting information on the rich cultural assets in the form of manuscripts scattered all over the region. The Directorate has offices both in Srinagar and Jammu. It has so far produced electronic data for 3672. The rest of the data has been sent to the Mission Head Office, New Delhi to be prepared for the electronic data of *e-granthavali*. The Museum has covered 23 institutions and 190 private collections covering 7 districts, and has held several awareness campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir.



Address:

Shri S. K. A. Qadri
Director, Directorate of State Archaeology,
Archives & Museum, Stone Building,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar – 190001
Jammu and Kashmir

Tel: 0194-2472361(Srinagar),
0191-2578834(Jammu)

3. Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Shimla

The MRC at Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Shimla signed the MOU with the Mission in May 2005. Since then the MRC has documented 1600 manuscripts covering 6 private collections. It has also organized 2 publicity programs in different places generating a very good response among the people. The MRC has also been involved in conducting the National Survey for manuscripts in Himachal Pradesh in 2006.

Address:

Shri Sudarshan Vashisth
Project Coordinator, Himachal Pradesh Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Shimla 171001
Himachal Pradesh

Manuscript Resource Centres

4. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

The Kurukshetra University was established in 1956 and its foundation stone was laid by late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India. Starting with only the Department of Sanskrit, it has grown into a multi-faculty University as one of the premier centres for advanced study and research in the region. Committed to offer quality education, Kurukshetra University established the Jawaharlal Nehru Library. The library has 2, 99,463 documents including 7,000 manuscripts. Kurukshetra University has a long history of collecting manuscripts and rare books for research and teaching. Some of its manuscripts are 500 years old. The University's collection serves the students and scholars from around the world, as well as of the general public, who are welcome to use its materials.

The MRC at Kurukshetra University has been functioning since October 2003 to locate and document the manuscripts in the public and private manuscript repositories of Harayana. The MRC has in the year 2006 documented 446 data of manuscripts covering 2 districts. The MRC has also been involved in conducting the National Survey for manuscripts in Himachal Pradesh in 2006.

Address:

Surendra Mohan Mishra (Reader)
Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra-136119, Harayana
Tel: 01744 238367, Fax: 01744 238277

5. K. M. Institute of Hindi & Linguistics, Agra

Formerly known as the Agra University, the University was renamed 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University', in 1996. The University is privileged to have a large collection of rare manuscripts related to literature, history, astronomy, astrology, religion and philosophy. The collection also contains old coins, old picture and a map of Agra from the time of Shah Jahan and other items of immense historical value. The University is making every possible effort for the careful preservation of these treasures. The K. M. Institute of Hindi & Linguistics established as early as 1953 is actively

involved in the preservation and study of these manuscripts some of the outcome of this study is the edited work on Sursagar Padmawat Beesaldev Raso etc. There is a section of special collections in the Central Library which includes the Mahajan collection, the Srivastava collection and the Bagchi Collection. The MRC since its inception documented 1400 manuscripts with the help of 2 scholars.

Address:

K.M. Hindi Institute of Hindi Studies and Linguistics
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University
Paliwal Park, Agra

6. Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamshala

Conceived of and founded by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA) is one of the most important institutions in the world dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of Tibetan culture. It has been operational since 1 November 1971. As a centre for the study of Tibetan culture, the Library is firmly dedicated to a threefold vision of preservation, protection and promotion. The Library is home to one of the only two Tibetan Oral History projects in the world. The Tibetan Manuscript Collection contains more than 80,000 items, ranging from handwritten manuscripts and centuries old documents to contemporary books and periodicals. Of special value are several handwritten editions of the Kangyur and Tengyur, the Tibetan Buddhist Canon; major works of Tibet's four Buddhist traditions, the Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya and Gelug, as well as the indigenous Bön tradition. It is in the process of completing a general catalogue of all materials in the collection. An important new project for the LTWA is the launch of the Central Archives of the Works of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. The purpose of which is to gather all materials concerning His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings, writings and speeches.

The Library signed the MOU with the Mission in September 2003. The survey in this region has so far generated 56, 677 data on manuscripts. The Institute has conducted several outreach campaigns which were well

Manuscript Resource Centres

received by the participants. The events organized by the MRC have been broadcast in radio and local television channels, for wider propagation.

Address:

Lobsang Shastri
Chief Librarian, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives,
Gangchen Kyisong, Dharamsala 176215
Himachal Pradesh
Email: lobshastri@gov.tibet.net

7. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur

Established by Nawab Faizullah Khan, the Rampur Raza Library is a rich storehouse of 50,000 books and 15,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Turkish, many of them priceless. It also houses Mughal miniature paintings from the sixteenth to eighteenth century. The Library has the status of a National Institution and functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Library has a collection of 150 illustrated manuscripts and 11 Descriptive Catalogues in various languages and subjects. The Library is preparing a critical edition of Tarikh-i-Baburi, a manuscript of immense historical value. Tarikh-i-Mohammadi, another important text, is also being transcribed from the original for publication.

The MRC at Rampur Raza has been functioning since August 2003. The MRC has so far documented 39,951 manuscripts of Urdu, Arabic and Persian languages. It has covered 40 institutions and 90 private collections covering 60 districts during survey and has held 7 awareness campaigns. Presently 6 scholars are engaged in the documentation work.

Address:

W. H Siddiqi
OSD/Director, Rampur Raza Library, Hamid Manzil
Rampur 244901, Uttar Pradesh
Tel: 0595 2325045 Fax: 0595 2340548,
Email: director@razalibrary.com

8. Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy, Haridwar

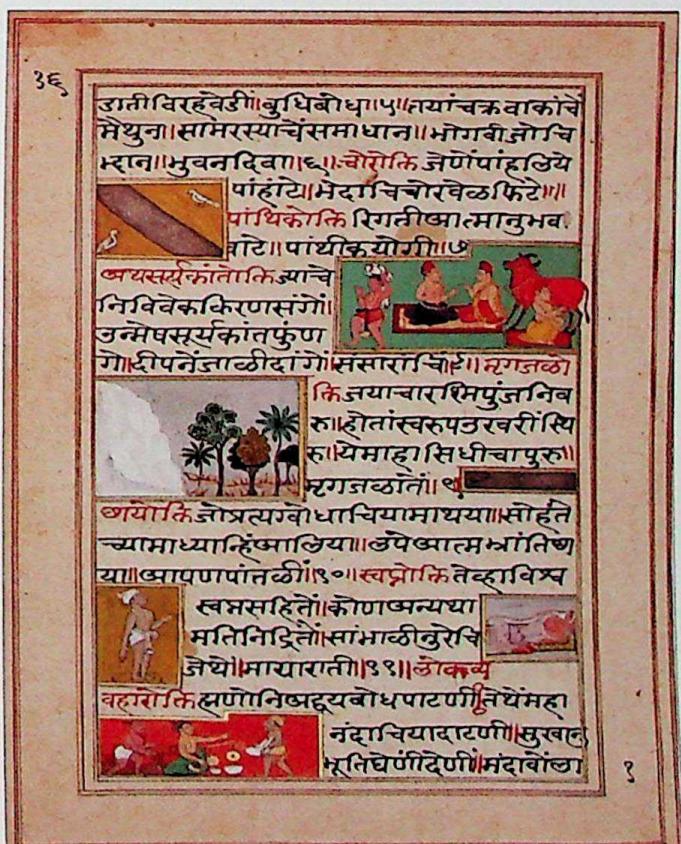
Established in December 2002 to promote the Sanskrit language, the Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy integrates

the Sanskrit language with new technology. It organizes seminars, exhibitions, and collects manuscripts from private collections. There are 88 Sanskrit colleges and schools working under this Academy. It has a collection of 4,000 manuscripts. The manuscripts found in the institutions and private collections in the State cover a wide range of subjects from Veda, Upanishad, Purana Itihasa, Dharmashastra, Darshana, Kavya, Stotra and several other subjects

The MRC at Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy has been working with the NMM since June 2005. With the help of 9 staff members the institute has surveyed 125 private collections and 20 institutions covering 6 districts. These surveys resulted in the documentation of 3040 manuscripts.

Address:

Savita Mohan
Secretary, Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy
Ranipur Jhal Delhi Rashtriya Raj Marg
Haridwar 249401



Manuscript Resource Centres

9. Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur

The Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur is an important manuscript repository in North India. The collection of the Department is distinctive, with 2,685 manuscripts in the North Indian and South Indian languages and scripts pertaining to different subjects such as the Veda, Upanishads, Puranas, astrology, astronomy and ayurveda, among others. They are written on different materials like birch bark, palm leaf and hand-made paper. Many old and important manuscripts have already been edited and published and some are in process of publication by the Institute. The latest publication to come out of the Institute was Asvalayana Srauta Sutra in 3 volumes. One of the unique manuscripts of the Institute is a manuscript (photocopy) titled Sancha written in Pavuchi script which is presently not known to be available in any other collection. This script is yet to be deciphered by the scholars.

The MRC, started working in September 2003. Out of the surveys conducted so far, information has gleaned on 23727 manuscripts from different collections in places such as Chandigarh, Muktsar, Amritsar, Patiala, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur including some areas of Uttarakhand.

Address:

G.D. Bharadwaj

Chairperson, Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies

Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur 146021, Punjab

Tel: 01882-275475, Fax: 01882-221002

10. The Vrindavan Research Institute, Vrindavan

Founded in November 1968 by philanthropist scholar Dr. R. D. Gupta, the Vrindavan Research Institute is accorded the status of a Museum of Manuscripts and Archival Material by the Museums Association of India. It has grown into a centre devoted to the cause of conservation and publication of manuscripts. The primary aim of the Institute is to collect, preserve and study the manuscripts, archival material, and objects of art and culture of India in general and of the Braj region in particular. The Institute has microfilmed thousands of manuscripts and historical temple documents from some private collections, which are extremely useful for the study of the history and culture of the region. Its collection now contains about 30,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali and other Indian languages, and hundreds of archival documents and temple records shedding light on the socio-economic, religious and cultural life of medieval India.

The Vrindavan Research Institute signed the MOU with the Mission on 12 September 2003. It has since then surveyed 7 institutions and 23 private collections and documented 1178 manuscripts.

Address:

Dr. Brij Mohan Chaturvedi

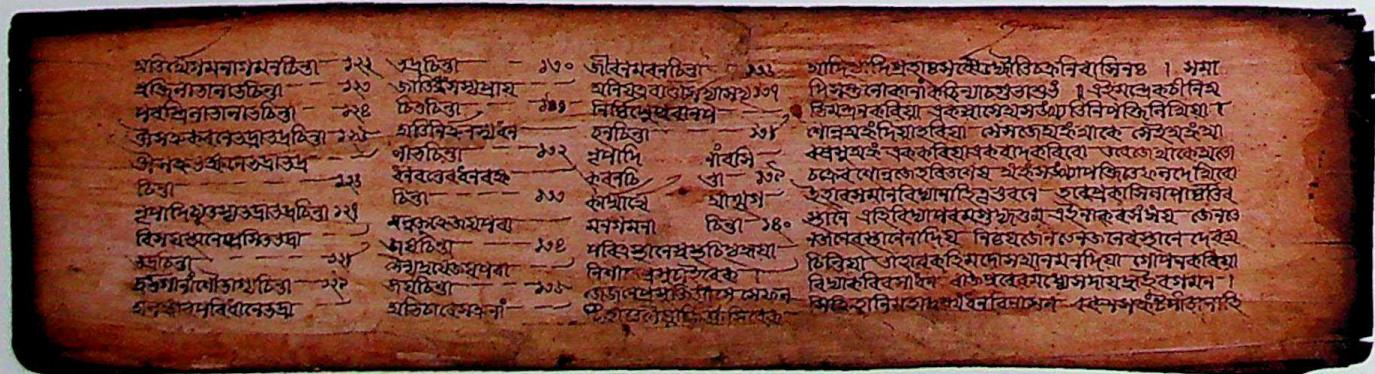
Coordinator, Vrindavan Research Institute

Raman Reti Marg

Vrindavan-281121

Tel: 0565 - 2540628 Fax - 2540576

Email: vrivbn@sancharnet.in



Manuscript Resource Centres



11. Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad, Lucknow

The Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad began its association with the Mission as an MRC from 1 May 2006. It has since then conducted a survey covering 1 institution and one district.

Address:

Project Coordinator

Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad, Mahatma Gandhi Marg
Hazratganj, Lucknow 226001

Tel: 0522 2623962

12. Sanskrit Department, Garhwal University, Pauri

The Sanskrit Department at Pauri University signed the MOU with the Mission on 12 April 2006. It has since then conducted 2 awareness campaigns in the region. It has surveyed over 30 institutions and private collections in 2 districts.

Address:

Prof. J.K. Godiyal

Project Coordinator, Department of Sanskrit
HNB Garhwal University, Pauri Garhwal, Uttrakhand
Tel: 01346 257134

13. Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya, Varanasi

Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya, established by Sir Arthur Venis, in 1791 is located in Varanasi and is one of the oldest Sanskrit Universities in India. It is considered a focal point for Sanskrit culture and studies in India. The University has a valuable collection of 1, 25,000 manuscripts covering all the subjects in Devanagari, Bengali and Sarada scripts. The University has published valuable catalogues of manuscripts. Among these, the older catalogue comprises the manuscripts acquired in 1791-1950 and the new one covers those obtained in 1951-1981. Both contain a large number of extremely valuable manuscripts.

Sampurnananda Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya signed the MOU with the National Mission for Manuscripts in May 2005. It has 8 scholars working in 10 districts towards the collection and preservation of manuscripts.

Address:

Gangadhara Panda

Project Coordinator

Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya
Varanasi 221001

Uttar Pradesh

Tel: 0542 2205122

Manuscript Resource Centres



14. Andhra Pradesh Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute, Hyderabad

With a view to salvage the valuable and rare manuscripts in the State, the Oriental Manuscripts Library was established in the Andhra Pradesh State Archives Department in 1967. In 1975, the Library was made an independent Directorate under the Education Department. It is now located in the Osmania University Campus. The main objective of the Department is the documentation and preservation of manuscripts. It has a rich collection of 24,017 manuscripts both on palm leaf and paper in Telugu, Sanskrit, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Kannada, Hindi, Oriya, Marathi and a few other languages. These manuscripts relate to various subjects like Vedas, Upanishads, Agamas, Dharmashastra, Grammar, Prosody, Alankara Sastra, Mantra Sastra, Tantrashastra, Indian Medicine, Unani Medicine, Astrology, Astronomy, Kavya, Dictionaries, etc. The Institute has published 3 volumes of Descriptive Catalogues. There are a number of rare manuscripts preserved in the Library, such as the Bhargava Purana, Tatvasangraha Ramayana and Andhra Tulasi Ramayana in Telugu, Akaradi Amara Nighantu, Samaveda in

Sanskrit, Diwan-i- Gawazi in Urdu and Almuktra -i-Funoon, Aqlaq-i-Nasery in Arabic and Persian.

The MRC was established in November 2005. The MRC has so far documented 1556 electronic data and has conducted 4 awareness campaigns which received a great response from the public.

Address:

R Thirumala Rao

Director

A.P. Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute, Jama-I-Osmania
Osmania University Campus
Hyderabad 500007, Andhra Pradesh
Tele-fax: 040 23220236

15. Department of Manuscriptology, Kannada University, Hampi

The Manuscriptology Department at Kannada University at Hampi, Karnataka, was started in 1996. It may be considered as the foremost department designed for the study of the manuscripts at the University level in Karnataka. The Department has a four-fold activity, which includes the collection of manuscripts, editing them, their study in a new dimension by adopting innovative technology and their publication. The main objective of the Department is to compile manuscripts that enshrine the history of centuries, to enrich India's cultural history. Field work, seminar, training courses, workshops are part of the programme of this Department. It has so far collected more than 4,000 valuable manuscripts including Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi and Sanskrit, besides Kannada. Some of the most significant among them are Nammi's *Bharata*, *Halayudha Stotra*, *Kumarasambhava*, *Shivadhikya Ratnavali* and a commentary on *Maghakavya*, etc. There are also several illustrated and colored manuscripts.

The Manuscript Department of the Manuscript Library of Kannada University has many specialties. The Library has 4,000 very rare manuscripts. Among the collection Kannada manuscripts are more than 3,000 in number. The MRC at Kannada University, Hampi, has been functioning since

Manuscript Resource Centres

June 2004. It has covered 35 institutions and 800 private collections covering 9 districts during survey and has held 20 awareness campaigns. The MRC has so far documented 22,723 manuscripts most of which are written in Sanskrit or Kannada scripts covering a wide range of subjects like religion, astrology, philosophy, vastu shastra, folksongs, folklore etc.

Address:

Veeresh S. Badiger
Department of Manuscriptology, Kannada University, Hampi,
Vidyaranya 583276, Hospet Tq District Bellary, , Karnataka
Tel: 08394 441335/ 441337 Fax: 08394 441334
Email: registrar@kavihampi.org

16. French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry

The French Institute of Pondicherry was established in 1955, with a view to collect all material relating to Shaiva Agamas, scriptures of the Shaiva religious tradition called the Shaiva Siddhanta, which has flourished in South India since the eighth century A. D. The manuscript collection of the Institute was compiled under its Founder-Director, Jean Filliozat. The manuscripts in need of urgent preservation cover a wide variety of topics such as Vedic ritual, Shaiva Agama, *Sthalapurana* and scripts such as Grantha and Tamil. The collection consists of approximately 8,600 palm-leaf codices (including 360 bundles of texts written on paper) and 1,144 transcripts of manuscripts on paper in Devanagari script including five illustrated manuscripts. It is unique as it has the largest collection of *Shaiddhantika* manuscripts in the world.

The MRC at the French Institute has been in operation since August 2003. It has so far documented 22,607 manuscripts into the database of the Mission. This year the Institution covered 2 institutions and 65 private collections covering 6 districts.

Address:

T. Ganesan
Project Coordinator, French Institute of Pondicherry

11 Saint Louis Street, PB-33, Pondicherry 605001
Tel: 0413 2334168 (ext) 123 Fax: 0413 2339534

17. National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research, Shravanabelagola

The National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research was established in 1993 to promote Prakrit language, literature, Jainology and Jain literature in Kannada and other Dravidian languages. It has a magnificent library of 6,000 invaluable manuscripts written on palm leaf and paper along with a rich collection of 20,000 volumes. Affiliated to Mysore University, it is the only Centre in South India promoting higher education and research on Jain literature, theology, philosophy, history and arts and thus it has attracted scholars from all over the world. The Institute regularly supports 5 advanced students to work on Ph.D Degree by providing guidance and monetary assistance.

The Institute has some very important manuscripts available like *Gommatasara*, *Chattisa Ganitha*, *Adipurana*, and *Khagendramanidarpana* and *Thiloyapannathi*. The institute also possesses a valuable copy of *Yathivrishabhacharya*, a text written on the three world Jain theories in the sixth century A.D.

The MRC at National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research started functioning from October 2005. Before becoming an MRC, the Institute had documented and catalogued 50,000 data of Jain manuscripts which is integrated in the Mission's National Electronic Database of Manuscripts. As an MRC the institute has surveyed 50 private collections and 37 institutes and documented 30,338 manuscripts in the Mission's National Electronic Database of Manuscripts.

Address:

M. Udayraj
Executive Officer
National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research
Shri Dhavalateertham
Shravanabelagola 573135
Hassan District
Karnataka

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18. Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

The Oriental Research Institute in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati was established by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam in 1939. It was set up with the objective of furthering Indological research and propagating Indian culture and heritage. The institution was handed over to Sri Venkateswara University in 1956.

The Institute has a rich collection of 50,000 palm-leaf and paper manuscripts and 75,000 rare printed books in its library. The manuscripts in the collection cover a wide range from philosophy, religion, epic, language, grammar to poetics and horoscopy.

The MRC at the Institute has been working with the Mission since September 2003. It has so far documented 33,543 manuscripts written in Telugu and Devanagari scripts. Data pertaining to the manuscripts has been entered into the Database. It has held several outreach campaigns and sensitization programmes through newspaper and TV channels. This created a good response in the area, especially among research scholars, teachers and manuscript holders.

Address:

V. Venkataramana Reddy
In-charge Director, Oriental Research Institute
Venkateswara University, Tirupati 517502
Andhra Pradesh
Tel: 0877 2249666(ext) 291 Fax: 0877 2226614

19. Oriental Research Institute, Mysore

The Oriental Research Institute was established in 1891 by Chamaraja Wodeyar, the Maharaja of Mysore, with the objective of collecting, preserving, deciphering and critically editing palm leaf and paper manuscripts. It was a part of the Department of Education until 1916, when it became a part of the University of Mysore.

Oriental Research Institute has published nearly 200 titles, the most notable among them is the publication of the first ever complete text of Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (written in the fourth century B.C) in 1909, which brought to the Institute to international academic renown. There are other important

texts like *Navaratnamani-mahatmya* (a work on gemology), *Tantrasara-sangraha* (a work on sculpture and architecture), *Vaidyashastra-dipika* (an ayurvedic text), *Rasa-kaumudi* (on mercurial medicine) and *Paryayapadamanjari* (ayurvedic materia medica) in ORI's collection. The Institute has already published 17 volumes of Descriptive Catalogues of different subjects including 9 volumes of the *Sritattvasudhanidhi*, the illustrated manuscripts.

The MRC at Oriental Research Institute, University of Mysore, has been functioning since October 2003. The documentation, pertaining mainly to the collections of the MRC itself, has covered 58,103 manuscripts.

Address:

Nagaraj Sharma
Project Coordinator, Oriental Research Institute
University of Mysore, Kautilya Circle
Mysore 570005, Karnataka
Tel: 0821 2423136/ 2420331, Email: mrcmys@yahoo.com

20. Keladi Museum and Historical Research Bureau, Shimoga

Affiliated to Gnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Kuvempu University of Shimoga, the Keladi Museum has a library of about 1,000 paper and palm leaf manuscripts written in Kannada, Sanskrit and Telugu and approximately 400 palm leaf manuscripts in Tigalari script. These manuscripts relate cover literature, art, history, astrology, astronomy, medicine, mathematics and veterinary science. There are also several collections of art objects, arms, coins, stone sculptures and copper plate inscriptions belonging to the Vijayanagara and Keladi eras.

The Museum associated itself with the Mission's network in May 2005. Since then it has been working with the Mission and has documented 4394 manuscripts.

Address:

Keladi Gunda Jois
Project Coordinator, Keladi Museum and Historical Research Bureau, Keladi, Sagar Taluk, Shimoga District
Karnataka 577401

Manuscript Resource Centres

21. Mahabharata Samshodhana

Pratishtanam, Bangalore

The Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtanam, founded in 1997 is an Indic research organization based in Bangalore. It has been established with the objective of contextualizing India's ancient wisdom and knowledge and use it to the improve quality of life of people across the world and to conduct focused research in select areas of Indic knowledge systems. It is also involved in research and development of new tools and technologies and in distributing them as freeware as needed by scholars of Indic systems.

The MRC at MSP has been functional since December 2004 and works towards preservation and digitization of manuscripts of India. It has so far documented 2,000 data of manuscripts and has conducted 5 awareness campaigns.

Address:

Ramachandra Budihal
Project Coordinator
Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtanam
1/E, 3rd Cross, Girinagar 1st Phase
Banashankari 3rd Stage
Bangalore 560 085, Karnataka
Tel: 080 6422387, Email: mspblr@yahoo.com

22. Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur

Built up by the successive dynasties of Nayaks and Marathas of Thanjavur, the Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library is perhaps one among the few medieval libraries that exists in the world. The Library contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, books, maps and painting on all aspects of arts, culture and literature. The Library has a rich collection of manuscripts numbering about 59,000 in Sanskrit, Tamil, Marathi and

Telugu including several illustrated manuscripts, which reflect the history and culture of South India. A total number of 24,432 titles are catalogued and in active use. The scripts used for Sanskrit language are Grantha, Devanagari, Telugu and Malayalam, Kannada and Oriya. Fourteen volumes of Descriptive Catalogues have been published by the Library so far.

The MRC at Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library has been functioning since September 2003. The MRC has so far prepared 25227 electronic data of manuscripts in Tamil Nadu.

Address:

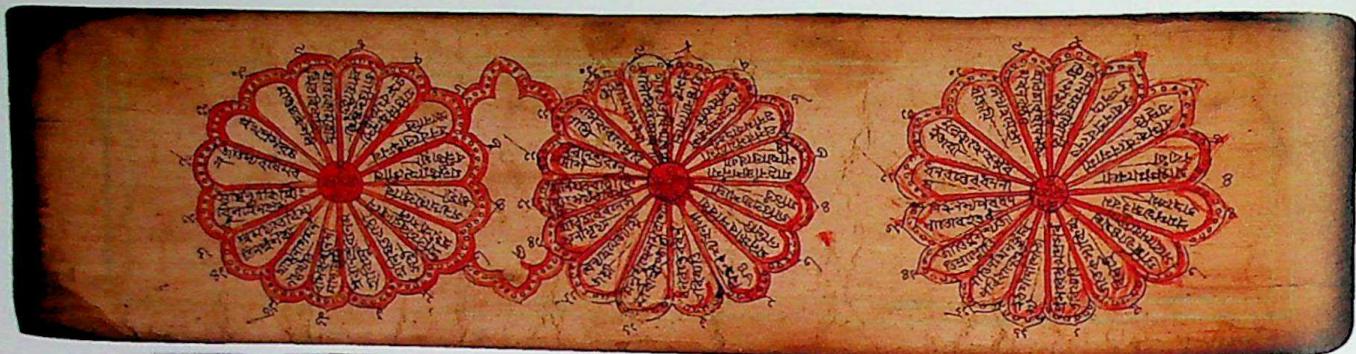
P. Perumal
Project Coordinator
Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library
Thanjavur 613009, Tamil Nadu
Tel: 04362 234107/ 230206
Fax: 04362 233568/230857

23. University of Madras, Chennai

Since August 2003 The University of Madras has been collaborating with the Mission to complete the project of New Catalogus Catalogorum which is very informative for scholars in the field of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit. The New Catalogus Catalogorum is a comprehensive alphabetical register of Sanskrit and allied works in Pali, Prakrit and Apabhramsa carried out by the University of Madras since 1935. The National Mission has taken steps restart this illustrious programme. Through financial support from the Mission, the publication of the next 10 volumes will be brought out by 2007. So far 17 volumes have been completed through this project and another 8 volumes be edited and completed for publication. The Mission will shortly digitize the NCC volumes also.



Manuscript Resource Centres



The University signed a second MOU in July 2004 to collaborate as a MRC for locating and documenting the manuscripts of Tamil Nadu. The MRC has documented and produced electronic data on 5222 manuscripts.

Address:

V. Arasu
Head of Department of Tamil Literature
Marina Campus, University of Madras
Chennai 600005, Tamil Nadu
Tel: 044 28444933/28441686
Fax: 044 25366693/28445517
Email: tamil_lit@rediffmail.com

24. Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram

Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya is sponsored by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust. The University started functioning from 1994-1995 with various branches of modern knowledge with a focus on science including Sanskrit, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Medicine (Human, Veterinary and Plant), Biotechnology, Genetics and Computer Technology. The University also encourages advanced research in the above fields of knowledge. Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi International Library was established in 1995 a unique feature of this library is its collection of rare and ancient manuscripts and palm-leaves which are more than 6,000 in number. These manuscripts have been microfilmed and will generate high quality research in Sanskrit and various fields of modern science and technology.

The Mahavidyalaya started functioning as an MRC from November 2004. The MRC has so far documented 2621 data from 4 institutes and 4 private collections of the area.

Address:

Nagalakshmi
Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya
Sri Kanchi Sankar Matha
Kanchipuram 631502, Tamil Nadu
Tel: 0411 2 222115 Fax: 04112 224305

25. Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, University of Kerela, Thiruvananthapuram

Established in the University of Kerela the Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library is a renowned repository of manuscripts from this region. It has more than 60,000 manuscripts in palm-leaf, paper, ivory, tortoise shell and metal covering a wide variety of subjects. These are found in languages such as Sanskrit, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Tamil. The Library has published 8 volumes of Alphabetical Tabular catalogues and 2 volumes of Malayalam catalogues.

The Institute has been collaborating with the Mission as a MRC since November 2003. It has so far conducted surveys covering 7 districts. The institute has documented 31280 manuscripts.

Address:

P. Vishalakshy
Head of the Department

Manuscript Resource Centres

Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library
 University of Kerela, Kariavattom
 Thiruvananthapuram 695585, Kerela
 Tel: 0471 2418421. Fax: 0471 2302898
 Email: keralauniversity@vsnl.com

26. Thunchan Memorial Trust, Tirur

Established in memory of Thunchan Ramanujan Ezhuttachan, the great spiritual leader, poet and social reformer of Kerela, the Thunchan Memorial Trust has through its several activities such as conducting seminars, discussions and poetry readings established itself as a vibrant centre of learning dedicated to the study of history, culture and literature of the region. The Institution has a well-developed library with significant manuscripts collection.

The MRC at Thunchan Memorial Trust started functioning in June 2004. It has in the last year conducted 1 awareness campaign and 6 surveys resulting in the documentation of 70613 manuscript data.

Address:

K.P. Ramanunni
 Director, Thunchan Memorial Trust, Thunchan Parambu
 Tirur 676 101, Malappuram District, Kerala
 Tel: 0494 2422213/ 2429666, Email: thunchan@vsnl.com

27. Manipur State Archives, Imphal

The practice of maintaining records has been in vogue with the advent of art of writing in Manipur. The official records were maintained in the royal court. Individuals also used to maintain private records. The Manipur State Archive was established in March, 1982, under the Directorate of Social Welfare, Arts & Culture, Government of Manipur. The aims and objects of the State Archives is to concentrate in a single repository all the non-current records both confidential and non-confidential as well as the private records. The Manipur State Archives accessioned the records under the following categories i.e. Public Records, Private Records, Historical Manuscripts both in Archaic Meitei & Bengali Scripts and rare books of the Library.

In its valuable collection the Manipur State Archive also

has the Parawanas and orders of the Manipur Maharaja & the Political Agent in Manipur from the year, 1891 to 1947 and the Diaries of the Manipur Political Agents and Assistant Political Agent (1886-1947). The State Archives collected and preserved many valuable historical manuscripts in Archaic Manipuri and few manuscripts of Bengali scripts.

In 2006 the MRC at the Manipur State Archives conducted 6 awareness campaigns and 20 surveys which resulted in the documentation of 22133 manuscripts.

Address:

Dr. K. Sushila
 Director, Manipur State Archives
 Washington Likoi, Imphal - 795 001, Manipur
 Tel /Fax – 0385 – 2222813, M- 09436021755

28. Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna

One of the National Libraries of India, the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library was established in 1891 by Khuda Bakhsh Khan out of his personal collection of a few manuscripts. It acquired the status of an "Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament in 1969. The Library is recognized the world over for its rich collection of invaluable manuscripts, rare printed books, many miniatures and paintings of Hindu pantheon and original paintings of Mughal, Rajput, Turkish and Iranian schools. It has special manuscripts like an inch-wide Quran. It also contains the only books rescued from the plunder of the University of



Manuscript Resource Centres

Cordoba in Spain. There are some other rare manuscripts in the collection at Khuda Bakhsh, including the Jehangir-Nama, Shah-Namah, Al-Quran, Tarikh-i-Khandan-i-Timuriya and Kitab-ul-Hashaishh. There are many examples of Persian calligraphy and rare coins. Many expensive and rare manuscripts have come from places like Alexandria, Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, Arabia, etc. There are facilities for research work concerning the Islamic period in Oriental studies. The Institution has published 39 volumes of Descriptive Catalogues covering 300 illustrated manuscripts. The Khuda Bakhsh MRC concentrates mainly on documenting Urdu, Arabic, and Persian manuscripts.

The MRC, started in September 2003 has collected information on 19520 manuscripts with electronic data. The 8 publicity campaigns organized by the Centre have yielded rich results in terms of creating awareness in the people in preserving their manuscripts and in sharing the information. This year 58 private collections and 37 institutions were surveyed by the library.

Address:

Imtiaz Ahmed
Director, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library
Ashok Rajpath, Patna 800 004, Bihar
Tel: 0612 2300209 Fax: 0612 2300209
Email: pat_kbopl@data1.in

29. Kameshwari Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga

Darbhanga Sanskrit University was established in 1961, with Mahamopadhyay Dr. Umesh Misra, the eminent scholar, as the first Vice Chancellor. Among the collections of the University are manuscripts on epics, philosophy, vyakarana, dharmashastra, agama, tantra etc. The University has an exceptional collection of nearly 5,562 rare manuscripts including 6 illustrated manuscripts of the Ramayana, Gitagovinda, Srimadbhagavata and Durga Saptasati etc. The few manuscripts of Vidyapati, Mahesh Thakur composed in their own scripts are among the proud possession of the University.

Darbhanga Sanskrit University started functioning as a

MRC in September 2003. Known across Bihar for the rich manuscripts in Sanskrit, this MRC has documented in various collections and surveyed Mithila and Jharkhand areas. Seven scholars have so far documented 7219 manuscripts.

Address:

Kulanand Jha
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Kameshwari Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University
Kameshwari Nagaram, Darbhanga 846004, Bihar
Tele-fax: 06272 222608/222138

30. Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar

Drawing inspiration from Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, to develop a centre of excellence for Pali and Buddhist studies along the lines of the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara was established in 1951 by the Government of Bihar. Sri Bhikkhu Jagdish Kashyap was the Founder-Director of the Institute. The present campus of the Mahavihara is situated on the southern bank of the historical lake, Indrapuskarani. Close to the northern bank of the lake lie the ruins of the ancient University of Nalanda. In 1994, Mahavihara was taken over by the Department of Culture, Government of India. Now it is functioning as a registered society under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1960.

Presently, the Mahavihara offers a one-year certificate course in Pali and a two-year diploma in course in Pali, Tibetan, Sanskrit, Hindi and English. The Mahavihara is affiliated with Kameshwari Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University and Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, for several of its courses such as Pali, philosophy, ancient Indian and Asian studies etc. Courses leading to PhD degree are also offered in conjunction with Magadh University.

Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda signed an MOU with the Mission in June 2005. With the help of 2 scholars it has documented 2993 data sheets from 3 districts.

Address:

Ravindra Panth

Manuscript Resource Centres

Director, Nalanda-803111, Bihar

Tel: 0611 2281897 Fax: 0611 281820

31. Sri D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute, Arrah, Bihar

The "Jain Sidhanta Bhawan" better known as the "Central Jain Oriental Library, Arrah" was founded in 1903 by Sri Devakumar Jain, a great scholar and philanthropist. The Library has a valuable collection of manuscripts from all over the world. There are 3,179 palm leaf manuscripts, 3,500 paper manuscripts which are at least 500 years old. Most prominent among the manuscript collection are the illustrated Jain Ramayana and the Bhaktamira. There are nearly 200 paintings in Jain Ramayana alone in excellent Mogul and Rajput styles.

Besides the manuscripts, the library has 9,000 published books on religion, philosophy, history, and literature in nearly all the Indian and some foreign languages. There is also a collection of old paintings, pieces of art and old coins. Among the paintings on mythological subjects, treatment of the 16 dreams of Chandragupta, the 16 Tirthankars and Pawapuri temple stand out.

The MRC at the Institute has been functioning since May 2005. Since then the MRC is engaged in documenting manuscripts and producing electronic data with the help of 8 scholars and 6 official staff in 15 districts. Manuscripts found in these districts are mostly written in Devanagari, Urdu, Maithili, and Bengali covering wide range of subjects like Veda, Vedanta, Darshana, Karmakanda and many other such subjects. The MRC has so far documented 47186 manuscripts in electronic format. It has also documented 56,410 Jain manuscripts under the Register of Jain Manuscripts scheme which data is integrated with the National Electronic Database.

Address:

Ajay Kumar Jain
 Sri D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute
 Devashram, Mahadeva Road, Arrah, Bihar 802301
 And
 809, Ashiana Plaza, Budha Marg, Patna 800001, Bihar
 Tel: 0612 2352285

32. Calcutta University, Kolkata

The manuscript section of Calcutta University, Kolkata, has been in existence right from the inception of the University in 1857. In 1990, the Manuscript Library of Calcutta University became a full-fledged unit of the University under the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic). The Library has a collection of more than 42,000 manuscripts including quite a few on palm-leaves, including 20,000 in Sanskrit, 12,000 in Tibetan and Bengali and also several Persian and Arabic manuscripts. They are in different languages such as Sanskrit, Tibetan, Bangla, Oriya, Maithili, Pali, Arabic and Persian, and in scripts like Bengali, Oriya, Gaudi, Newari, Malayalam and Maithili. Some manuscripts are wrought in gold and silver lettering.

The MRC at Calcutta University was started in August 2003. The MRC has conducted surveys in Government and Government-sponsored libraries, institutional libraries, private libraries and personal collections in West Bengal.

The MRC has documented 52,700 manuscripts covering 13 districts of West Bengal so far and also prepared a list of manuscripts for digitization. It has also taken initiative in providing conservation support to several collections of manuscripts through applying indigenous methods for conservation at the time of documentation.

The MRC has also been involved in conducting the National Survey for manuscripts in West Bengal in 2006.



Manuscript Resource Centres

Address:

Ratna Basu
 In-charge, Manuscript Library
 Hardinge Building, 1st Floor
 87/1, College Street, Senate House
 University of Calcutta
 Kolkata 700073, West Bengal
 Tele-fax: 033 22413763/22413222

33. Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar

The collection of the Orissa State Museum is rich and focuses on the arts of the region. The precious palm leaf manuscripts of the Museum deserve a special mention. About 37,273 titles have been collected out of which 52 manuscripts have been published. It has manuscripts made of palm leaf, bamboo leaf, hand-made paper, ivory, bhurja bark and kumbhi bark. Rare garland-shaped, fan-shaped, fish-shaped, sword-shaped, rat- and parrot-shaped varieties of manuscripts and different types of stylus are available here. Four hundred illustrated manuscripts of coloured and monochrome variety are also found. Important manuscripts of *Gitagovinda* of Kali Charan Pattnaik, *Ushaharana*, *Ushavilasa* etc, and different varieties of cover design of palm-leaf manuscripts are also available in the collection.

The MRC at Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar has been functioning since August 2003. Ever since its inception, the MRC has been very active in survey and documentation work. The MRC has in this year documented 1500 manuscripts.

Address:

C.B.Patel
 Superintendent, Orissa State Museum
 Museum Building, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
 Tele-fax: 0674 2431597
 Email: cbpatelosm@rediffmail.com

34. SARASVATI, Bhadrak

Situated at the eastern part of Orissa at Sarasvati Vihar, Bhadrak, SARASVATI is one of the leading institutes for Oriental Studies and Research in the state dedicated to the cause of promoting Bharatiya Vidya (Indian Indigenous Science and Technology). Since its inception it has focused on training in Manuscriptology and has so far organized 10 orientation courses on Manuscriptology building a team of more than 400 scholars in this field in Orissa, Assam and West Bengal.

The MRC at SARASVATI has been working with the Mission since May 2005. It has managed to document 29741 data so far. The manuscripts documented by the MRC are mostly written in Oriya and Devanagari scripts covering a wide range of subjects like Purana, Dharmashasta, Karmakanda, Ayurveda, Tantra and many other subjects.

Address:

Sadananda Dikshita
 Hon. Director, SARASVATI
 Sarasvati Vihar, Barpada, Bhadrak 756113, Orissa
 Tel: 06784 261690

35. Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati University, Guwahati

In 1982 the Guwahati University Library was renamed as Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library after its first Vice Chancellor. Established primarily to enhance and support the different research programs carried out by the University, The Guwahati University Library started its functioning in 1948. The Library has acquired more than 4,500 manuscripts on different subjects including 5 illustrated manuscripts of the Ramayana, Bhagwata and Lavakusha Yuddha among others. The collection of manuscripts in the repository is written mostly in agarbark. They also have immense historic and cultural value as representing the region of their origin.



Manuscript Resource Centres

The MRC at Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati University, has been functioning since August 2003. The MRC has so far documented 24383 manuscripts from the 13 districts of Assam. It has conducted 96 awareness campaigns and over 1324 institutions and private collections have been surveyed. The sanchipat, tulapat are unique to this area as a medium of composition.

Address:

Bhupen Goswamee
 Librarian, Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library
 Guwahati University
 Gopinath Bardolai Nagar
 Guwahati 781014, Assam
 Tel: 0361 2570529/2674438
 Fax: 0361 2570133
 Email: kkhl@sancharnet.in

36. Gurucharan College, Silchar, Assam

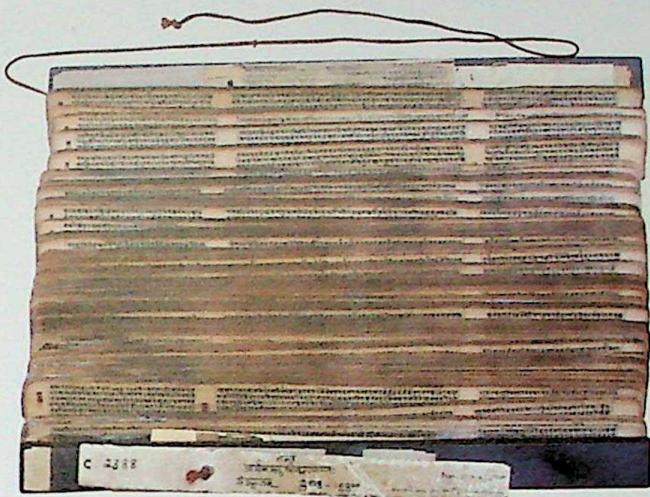
Gurucharan College, Silchar was established in 1935. The MRC at Gurucharan College, Silchar has been functioning since October 2005. The MRC has so far conducted 199 surveys covering 31 institutions and 168 individual collections in 7 districts. It has documented several manuscripts in different subjects like Ayurveda, Tantra/ Mantra, Jyotisha, Pujavidhi etc, out of which most are found to be written in Archaic Bengali script.

Address:

Utpal Das
 Project Coordinator
 B. C. Gupta Memorial Central Library
 B. C. College, College Road, Silchar 788004, Assam
 Tel: 03842 264257

37. Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur

With a view to explore, collect, preserve, edit and publish the ancient literature in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsa and Hindi-Rajasthani available in Rajasthan and adjacent areas, the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute an initiative of the



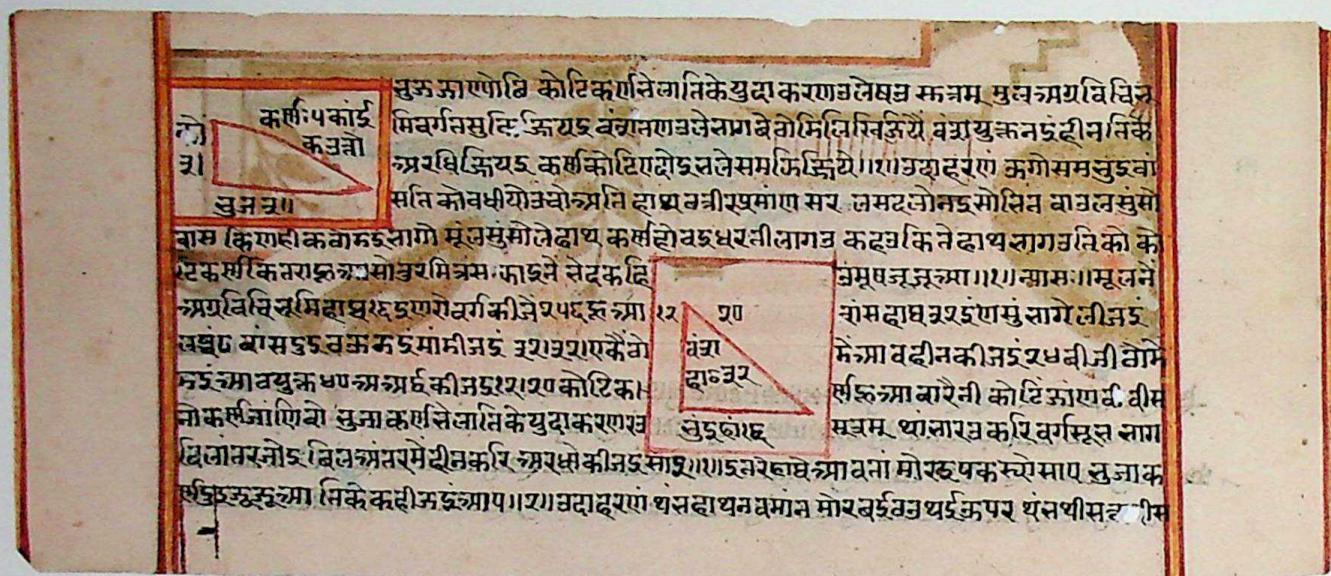
Government of Rajasthan, was established as the Sanskrit Mandal in 1950 and extended as a full-fledged department in 1954.

It has a large reference library comprising of 26,713 rare titles and 6,000 periodicals. It has 7 branch repositories at Bikaner, Jaipur, Bharatpur, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur and Alwar. It has a collection of 119,830 manuscripts including 1,011 illustrated manuscripts on different subjects like the Veda, Dharmashastra, Itihasa, Purana, Tantra, Mantra, Darshana, Jyotisha and Ayurveda. The Institute has published 130 Descriptive Catalogues and published critical editions of more than 200 important texts.

The rich manuscript collection of the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute include miniature versions with Pala, Western Indian, Rajput, Kangra and Jammu and Kashmir schools of painting on palm leaf, birch-bark, paper, wood and cloth. There are excellent calligraphy texts like *Dvipatha*, *Tripatha* and *Panchpatha*. Some unique specimens are *Arsha-Ramayana*, *Gita Govinda* (Mewar School), illuminated *Kalpasutra* of VS 1485, Buddhist manuscript *Arya Mahavidya*, and an illustrated Bhagavata among others. An authenticated manuscript of *Prithviraj Raso* from Dharnoj village of Gujarat and a number of manuscripts written profusely in gold ink are also worth mentioning.

The MRC at the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute started functioning in September 2003. With the active participation of the affiliate branches spread across Rajasthan, the MRC has been able to enrich the National

Manuscript Resource Centres



Electronic Database by producing electronic data for 99989 manuscripts. The Institute explored 9 districts including Dholpur, Alwar, Jaipur, Kota and Bikaner and managed to cover 16 institutions and 11 private collections during survey. The 4 awareness campaigns conducted by the MRC have unearthed information on fresh data concerning manuscripts.

Address:

F. C. Kalla

Director, Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute
P.W.D Road, Jodhpur 342011, Rajasthan
Tel: 0291 2430244

38. Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad

Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, one of the largest treasure houses of manuscripts relating to Jainism was established by Muni Shri Punyavijayji and Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The L.D. Institute has a library consisting of nearly 45,000 printed books nearly 75,000 manuscripts including 500 illustrated manuscripts, covering a wide range of subjects, like the Vedas, agamas, Buddhist religion, tantra, systems of Indian philosophy, and poetics etc. The institution has published 7 volumes of tabular catalogues, representing several languages like Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsa, Old Gujarati, Hindi and Rajasthani.

The MRC started in September 2003, has so far catalogued 1,07,609 electronic data for the e-granthavali database. It has covered 104 institutions, 27 private collections covering 18 districts during the survey and has held 10 awareness programs for sensitizing the people on the preservation of manuscripts.

Address:

Jitendra Shah

Director, Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology
Navarangpur, Near Gujarat University
Ahmedabad 380 009, Gujarat
Tel: 079 6302463, Email: ldii@ad1.vsnl.net.in

39. Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

Founded in 1917, in memory of Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar, the distinguished scholar, litterateur and one of the pioneers of scientific Indology in India, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute has nearly 20,000 manuscripts, covering a wide variety of subjects like religion, languages, Vedic literature, grammar, music, drama, purana, stotras, tantra, medicine and philosophical systems. The Archives contains copies of Persian translation of the Gita and Yogavasishtha, made by Dara Shikoh 340 years ago, a copy of Vishnu Purana translated into Persian by a Kashmiri

Manuscript Resource Centres

Pundit, a manuscript relating to horse-breeding written by Qazi Hasan Iftakhan 390 years ago, and an original manuscript bearing the seal of the royal library of Emperor Jehangir.

Thirty-five volumes of Descriptive Catalogue (covering over 12,000 manuscripts from the Government Manuscripts Library) have been published so far. Microfilming of about over a million folios (including those of about 4,000 uncatalogued manuscripts) was carried out at the Institute, under the auspices of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, and completed recently.

The MRC at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute has been functioning since September 2003. The MRC has so far documented 38811 manuscripts for the *e-granthavali*.

Address:

M.G. Dhadphale
Hon. Secretary, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute
Deccan Gymkhana, Pune 411037, Maharashtra
Tel: 020 25656932, Fax: 020 25661362
Email: boril@vsnl.net

40. Avikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtek

The Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University is unique in academic nature from all the other Sanskrit Universities in India. Other Sanskrit Universities traditionally cater to the learning of Veda, Vedanta, Vyakarana, Nyaya, Mimamsa Dharmashastra and Sahitya in Sanskrit. Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University has an innovative academic program and a syllabus incorporating modern subjects and traditional Sanskrit. On the one hand the courses emphasize a modern approach, and on the other hand they strive to preserve traditional principles. All of the courses are oriented in this way with special emphasis being placed on the science and technology of ancient India as preserved in the Sanskrit texts.

The Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University is fully equipped academically with 40 innovative and modern courses. It is a leading Sanskrit university among the 9 Sanskrit universities in India. It has 50 affiliated institutions

in the Maharashtra State, and 30 outside Maharashtra from Gujarat to West Bengal, and from Kerala to Haryana.

The realization of the immense richness and beauty of Sanskrit as a language and a mode of communication of ideas has prompted Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University to launch a program for foreigners in Ayurveda, to preserve this ancient Vedic knowledge.

The Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University became at MRC of the Mission in November 2004. The MRC has documented data on manuscripts covering Vidarbha and Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Mostly the manuscripts cover on Vrata, Vedic literature, Purana and other Shastras.

Address:

Pankaj Chandey
Vice Chancellor
Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University
Baghla Bhawan, Sitalwadi, Manda Road
Ramtek 441106, Maharashtra
Tel: 0711 455549/ 0712 531298/0712 560992

41. Institute for Oriental Studies (Shiva Shakti), Thane

The Institute was established in 1980 for the promotion of Indian culture, history, study of manuscripts and Sanskrit language through organizing seminars, workshops, exhibitions and discussions. The library possesses about 3,300 Sanskrit manuscripts and 26,000 volumes of printed books.

The MRC at Institute of Oriental Studies has been functioning since May 2005. It has documented 1,070 manuscripts from their own collection in the prescribed data form of the Mission.

Address:

Vijay Bedekar
Director, Dr. Bedekar's Hospital
Maharsi Karve Road
Naupara, Thane-West 400000
Maharashtra
Tel: 022 25422392

Manuscript Resource Centres

42. Sat Shruti Prabhavana Trust, Bhavnagar

The Sat Shruti Prabhavana Trust was established in 1997 for preservation and cataloguing of Jain manuscripts. The Trust was entrusted with the document the Jain manuscripts under the project of "Register of Jain Manuscripts" and registered about 50,000 data of Jain titles. This data is now being integrated into the Mission's National Electronic Database.

The MRC signed the MOU with the Mission in December 2005. It has since then covered 13 districts and documented 4455 manuscripts for the National Mission's Database.

Address:

Hiralal Jain

Chairman, Shree Sat Shruti Prabhavana Trust
580, Juni Manekwadi, Bhavnagar 364001, Gujarat
Tel: 0278 251 5005/242 3207

43. Anandashram Sanstha

The Anandashram Sanstha began working as an MRC from 27 January 2006. Since then the Sanstha has conducted one awareness campaigns and has documented 2255 manuscripts in the Missions electronic database.

Address:

Prof. Saroja Bhate

Project Coordinator, Anandashram Sanstha
22, Budhwar Peth, Pune 411002
Tel: 020 24226854(R), 020 24457119 (O)

44. Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Vikram University, Ujjain

Scindia Oriental Research Institute of the Vikram University, Ujjain was established in 1957. Apart from the Scindia Oriental Research Institute, the University also has an archaeological museum and an art gallery, which are major repositories of heritage items and artifacts.

The manuscript wealth in Scindia Oriental Research Institute is of all languages, Sanskrit being the most predominant. The Scindia Oriental Institute has a rare collection of 18,000 manuscripts in paper, old palm leaf and

bark leaf (bhurja patra). The subjects are wide-ranging, from ancient philosophy, sciences, religion, language, grammar and the arts. There are some rare manuscripts of heritage value such as the illustrated manuscript of the Srimad-Bhagavatam set in gold and silver, illustrated manuscripts exemplifying the old Rajput and Mughal style paintings, among others.

The Manuscript Resource Centre at Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Vikram University, Ujjain, started functioning in September 2003. The MRC has conducted extensive survey and documentation in the state of Madhya Pradesh and documented 23, 652 manuscripts which have been integrated into the *e-granthavali* software of the Mission.

Address:

Balkrishna Sharma

Director, Scindia Oriental Research Institute
Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
Tel: 0734 2515400 Fax: 0734 2514276
Email: sorimrc@yahoo.com

45. H.S. Gour University, Sagar

Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, formerly University of Saugar, was established on 18 July 1946 by Dr. Harisingh Gour with his lifetime savings. The oldest and biggest university in Madhya Pradesh, it has the singular distinction of being founded by the munificence of a single person's endowment of about 20 million rupees.

Madhya Bharati, the research journal of the University, and the Bulletin of the Botanical Society of the University are internationally recognized. The research journals from the Department of Sanskrit, Sagarika and Natyam have pride of place amongst the Indological journals of the country. Isuri, the journal from the Bundeli Peeth of Hindi Department is a perennial source of Bundelkhandi art and culture. The University also introduced the Manuscriptology and Paleography certificate course from this year.

The Manuscript Resource Centre at Department of Sanskrit has been working with Mission since September 2005. The MRC has surveyed 55 institutions and 120 private

Manuscript Resource Centres

collections in 11 districts and has also organized various awareness programmes in different places.

Address:

R. B. Tripathi
Head, Department of Sanskrit, Dr. Harisingh Gour University
Gour Nagar, Sagar 470003, Madhya Pradesh
Tele-fax: 07582 264366

46. Kunda Kunda Jnanapitha, Indore

Kunda Kunda Jnanapitha, Indore was established by Shri Deokumarsinghji Kasliwal in 1987 under Digambara Jaina Udasina Ashram Trust, Indore. The main objective of the Institute is to promote the scientific study of Jainism focusing on the history and archaeology of Jaina religion. The Institute was recognized as a Ph.D. research centre by Devi Ahilya Vishwa Vidyalaya, (University) Indore in the following 5 subjects i.e. ancient Indian mathematics

and history of mathematics, environment and ecological sciences, Prakrit, Pali, Apabhramsha and other oriental scripts, comparative religion, ancient Indian history, cultural and archaeology. Kunda Kunda Jnanapitha Pustakalya has a collection of 12,500 printed books and 350 periodicals for researchers. Since 1999 it has catalogued 58,766 of Jain manuscripts in 479 Jain Bhandaras under the "Register of Jain Manuscripts" project. That data has been integrated with the Mission's database.

The MRC at Kunda Kunda Jnanapitha, Indore has been associated with the Mission since May 2005. It has documented 5,213 data of manuscripts with the Mission's database.

Address:

Anupam Jain
Secretary, 584, M.G. Road
Tukoganj, Indore 452001



Manuscript Resource Centres

Activity Report - 2006-2007

Sl. No.	Name of Manuscript Resource Centre	Scholars/Staff
1.	Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh	6
2.	Directorate of State Archaeology, Archives and Museum, Jammu and Kashmir	9
3.	Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Shimla	5
4.	Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Gangchen Kyishong Dharmasala	6
5.	Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	5
6.	Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur	3
7.	Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy, Haridwar	9
8.	Rampur Raza Library, Rampur	6
9.	Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya, Varanasi	-
10.	Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	6
11.	A. P. Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute, Hyderabad	13
12.	French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry	3
13.	Oriental Research Institute, Mysore	6
14.	Kannada University, Hampi	15
15.	National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research, Shravanabelagola	4
16.	Keladi Museum and Historical Research Bureau, Shimoga	-
17.	Mahabharata Samshodhana Pratishtanam, Bangalore	9
18.	Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur	5
19.	University of Madras, Chennai	3
20.	Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram	5
21.	Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	6
22.	Thunchan Memorial Trust, Tirur	7
23.	Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna	10

Manuscript Resource Centres

Outreach Campaigns	Surveys	Institutes Surveyed	Private Collections Surveyed	Districts Covered	Data Collected
3	697	-	-	2	3,595
-	213	23	190	7	3,672
2	-	-	6	1	1,600
25	31	31	9	4	56,677
3	2	1	1	2	446
2	-	-	5		23,727
2	145	20	125	6	3,040
7	130	40	90	60	39,951
-	-	-	--	-	-
2	10	69	-	13	33,543
4	10	4	6	5	1,556
-	67	2	65	6	22,607
1	-	309	-	1	58,103
20	90	35	800	9	22,723
-	87	37	50	21	30,338
-	11	-	-	6	4,394
5	9	-	-	1	2,000
3	-	6	-	3	25,227
-	4	5	-	1	5,222
-	8	4	4	3	2,621
4	-	-	95	7	31,280
1	6	-	6	5	70,613
8	-	37	58	-	19,520

Manuscript Resource Centres

Sl. No.	Name of Manuscript Resource Centre	Scholars/Staff
24.	Kameshwari Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga	7
25.	Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda	3
26.	Sri Dev Kumar Jain Oriental Research Institute, Arrah	14 + 42 surveyors
27.	Manuscript Library, Calcutta University, Kolkata	8
28.	Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar	13
29.	SARASVATI, Bhadrak	32
30.	Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati	12
31.	Manipur State Archives, Imphal	7
32.	Gurucharan College, Silchar	-
33.	Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur	15
34.	Lalbai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad	5
35.	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune	13
36.	Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtek	4
37.	Institute for Oriental Studies (Shiva Shakti), Thane	-
38.	Sat Shruti Prabhavana Trust, Bhavnagar	6
39.	Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Vikram University, Ujjain	3
40.	Department of Sanskrit, Dr. H. S. Gour University, Sagar	7
41.	Kund-Kund Jnanapith, Indore	-
42.	42. Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Parishad	3
43.	Sanskrit Department Pauri Garhwal University	7
44.	Vrindavan Research Institute	6
45.	Anandasram Sanstha	2+26 Surveyors
46.	KM Hindi Institute	2

Manuscript Resource Centres

Outreach Campaigns	Surveys	Institutes Surveyed	Private Collections Surveyed	Districts Covered	Data Collected
-	-	-	88	8	7,219
-	-	-	-	3	2,993
2	-	10	-	15	47,186
-	-	-	-	-	52,700
43	12	39	360	15	1,500
2	1872	126	1746	14	29,741
96	1324	246	1078	13	24,383
6	20	-	-	9	22,133
1	199	31	168	-	-
4	13	16	11	9	99,989
10	8	104	27	18	1,07,609
6	101	-	-	17	38,811
-	131	35	96	5	-
-	-	-	-	1	1,070
-	-	-	-	13	4,455
22	82	53	29	9	23,652
2	14	55	120	11	-
-	30	-	-	9	5,213
-	1	1	-	1	-
2	81	6	75	5	-
-	30	7	23	2	1,178
1	-	-	-	-	2,255
	1	1	-	1	1,400

Manuscript Conservation Centres

1. Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh

The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies has been working as the nodal resource centre for Buddhism in the local area of Leh for several years. Formerly known as the 'School of Buddhist Philosophy', this institute was established in 1959. Its main objective is to develop a comprehensive knowledge of Buddhism. This includes the study of ancient shastras, culture, philosophy, history and languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit, English, Tibetan and Pali. It also preserves and publishes rare Buddhist manuscripts and facilitates research on Buddhism. The Institute is dedicated to instilling the wisdom of Buddhist thought, literature, and arts in young students.

To conserve these manuscripts a Manuscript Conservation Centre (MCC) was established at CIBS. A conservation laboratory with basic infrastructure and equipment was set up by the Central Team for conservation at the Mission which visited CIBS earlier this year. More than 336 folios have undergone preventive conservation.

Address:

Dr. Kockak Namgyal
Director, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies
Choglamsar, Leh (Laddak)-194001
Tele-Fax: 01982-264391
Mr. Tsering Muthup (AO) - 09419177543
Email: office@cibsladakh.com

2. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts' Conservation Unit has been working in the area of art of conservation for more than a decade. An MCC was created by the Mission in early 2005. It has established a well-equipped laboratory, which is being equipped by the Centre as a model laboratory for conservation through indigenous technology. The MCC has a dedicated staff that is well trained in both preventive

and curative conservation of manuscripts. Preventive conservation for 1900 folios covering 4 institutions has been carried out with emphasis on emergency treatment as well as storage re-organization. IGNCA has also successfully conducted several outreach campaigns this year in and around Delhi.

Address:

R.C. Gaur
Conservation Unit, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110001
Tel: 011 23385257, Email: ritujain1970@hotmail.com

3. Department of Language and Culture, Shimla

Among the newest MCC-s, this Centre signed the MOU with Mission on 27 May 2005. They have established a well-equipped laboratory. The Centre is taking up preventive conservation work in the remote regions of Himachal Pradesh and has conducted 9 storage re-organizations and preventive conservation has been done on 37500 folios.

Address:

Prem Kumar Sharma
Director, Department of Language and Culture
Block No.395, SDA Complex
Kasumputy, Shimla 171009
Tel: 0177 2626614

4. Uttarakhand Institute for Conservation Research and Training, Nainital

The MCC at the Uttarakhand Institute for Conservation Research and Training, Nainital has signed the MOU with the Mission on 19 July 2005. A conservation lab with basic facilities has been established. Two persons are appointed and basic training has been given. The Centre is being developed as a training institute utilizing the basic strength of this Centre.

Manuscript Conservation Centres

Address:

Anupam Sah
 Director, Uttarakhand Institute for Conservation Research and Training, Markandey House (near HMT Main Gate)
 Rani Bagh, District Nainital 263 126, Uttarakhand
 Tel: 05946-244242 Fax: 05946-244242.
 Email: uicrat@sancharnet.com

5. The Vrindavan Research Institute, Vrindavan

Founded in November, 1968 by philanthropist scholar, Dr. R. D. Gupta the Vrindavan Research Institute was inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh, the then Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation. The Institute is accorded the status of a Museum of Manuscripts and Archival Material by the Museums Association of India. It has thus grown into a centre devoted to the cause of conservation and publication of Indian culture. The primary aim of the Institute is to collect, preserve and study the manuscripts, archival material, and objects of art and culture of India in general and of the Braj region in particular. The Institute has microfilmed thousands of manuscripts and historical temple documents from some private collections, which are extremely useful for the study of the history and culture of the region. Its collection now contains about 30,000 manuscripts in Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali and other Indian languages, and hundreds of archival documents and temple records shedding light on the socio-economic, religious and cultural life of medieval India.

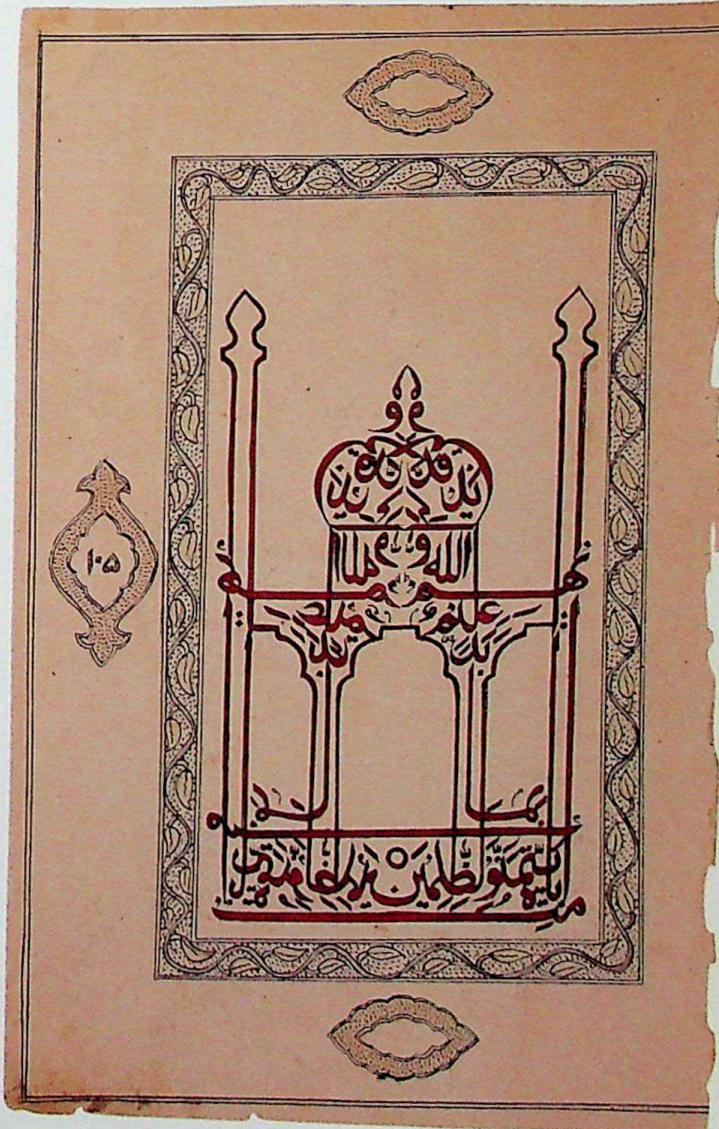
VRI has been associated with the Mission as an MCC since September 2003. It has organized 1 workshop and several outreach campaigns this year. It has already identified Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres and has conducted preventive conservation activities on 48468 folios. It has also conducted curative conservation on 227 folios.

Address:

Dr. Brij Mohan Chaturvedi
 Coordinator, Vrindavan Research Institute, Raman Reti Marg,
 Vrindavan-281121, Tel: 0565 – 2540628 Fax – 2540576
 Email: vrivbn@sancharnet.in

6. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur

Established by Nawab Faizullah Khan, a remarkably gifted and far-sighted ruler conversant in a number of languages The Rampur Raza Library is a rich storehouse of 50,000 books and 15,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Turkish, many of them priceless. It also houses Mughal miniature paintings from the sixteenth to eighteenth century. The Library has the status of a National Institution and now functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Library has a collection of 150 illustrated manuscripts and 11 Descriptive Catalogues in various languages and subjects. The library has published 12 manuscripts dealing with history and is preparing



Manuscript Conservation Centres

a critical edition of Tarikh-i-Baburi, a manuscript of immense historical value. The book is a contemporary Persian translation by the courtier Zain-i-Khanafi. Tarikh-

i-Mohammadi, another important text, is being transcribed from the original for publication.

Rampur Raza Library began its collaboration with Mission from September 2003. The MCC has established a conservation laboratory and also has procured the necessary conservation tools, chemicals, hand-made paper and other infrastructure. It has carried out preventive conservation work on 4506 folios and has successfully conducted several publicity campaigns. It has also provided emergency treatment to 2782 folios. The Library is also an MRC and has one of the finest collections of manuscripts in India boasting of several Mughal manuscripts and rare texts.

Address:

W. H Siddiqi
OSD/Director, Rampur Raza Library, Hamid Manzil
Rampur 244901, Uttar Pradesh
Tel: 0595 2325045 Fax: 0595 2340548,
Email: director@razalibrary.com



7. Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundation, Gorakhpur

The MOU with Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundation was signed on 18 May 2005. A thorough survey of manuscripts in and around the city of Gorakhpur has been done by the MCC and a large number of collection/individuals and organizations had been spotted for conservation activity. They are presently working on the conservation of their own manuscript collection and this year they have conducted preventive conservation activities on 3379 folios.

Address:

Karunesh Shukla
Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundation
18, Andhiari Bagh, Gorakhpur-273001
Phone: 0551 2242258/2249914

8. Indian Conservation Institute, Lucknow

The Indian Conservation Institute was established in 1985 as INTACH's first conservation laboratory. It has been associated with the Mission as an MCC since September 2003. It has

Manuscript Conservation Centres

organized 2 workshops and a number of outreach campaigns. The Centre is also successfully undertaken curative conservation of 122194 folios in various collections covering 5 institutions. The Centre also provides vital assistance to the Mission on account of its large resource pool of trained personnel in several areas related to conservation and training.

Address:

Mamta Misra
Conservator, Indian Council of Conservation Institutes
HIG-44, Sector E, Aliganj Scheme
Lucknow 226024
Tel: 0522 2377814/2376858
Fax: 0522 233432
Email: iccins@sancharnet.in

9. Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur

The Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Hoshiarpur is an important manuscript repository from the North -West zone of the country. The collection of the Department is distinctive, with manuscripts in the north Indian and south Indian languages and scripts pertaining to different subjects. They are written on different materials like birch bark, palm leaf and hand-made paper. One of the unique manuscripts of the Institute is a manuscript (photocopy) titled Sancha written in Pavuchi script which is presently not known to be available in any other collection. This script is yet to be deciphered by the scholars.

The institute began working with the Mission as an MCC from 12 April 2006.

Address:

G.D. Bharadwaj
Chairperson, Visweshvarananda Biswabandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies
Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur 146021, Punjab
Tel: 01882-275475
Fax: 01882-221002

10. Central Library, Benaras Hindu University

The Banaras Hindu University Library system, the largest University Library System in the country, germinated from a small but precious collection donated by Prof. P.K. Telang in the memory of his father Justice K.T. Telang in 1917 and housed in the Telang Hall of the Central Hindu College, Kamachha. It was nurtured in its infancy by the renowned historian Sir Jadunath Sarkar. With the University taking shape at its present premises, the library was also shifted in 1921 to the Central Hall of the Arts College (now Faculty of Arts) and then in 1941 to its present majestic building built with the munificent donation from Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, on the pattern of the great library British Museum in London on the suggestion of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the founder of university, after his return from the Round Table Conference, London in 1931. Its majestic circular Central Hall has been furnished with elegant furniture's made of faMOUs and rare variety of Burma Teak woods.

The MOU with the National Mission for Manuscripts was signed on 23 November 2006. They are carrying out the work on preventive as well as curative conservation simultaneously in several institutions all over the region

Address

Central Library, Benaras Hindu University
Varanasi 221005

11. Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

Set up with the objectives of furthering Indological research and propagating Indian culture and heritage, The Oriental Research Institute in Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati was established by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam in 1939. It was handed over to Sri Venkateswara University in 1956.

The Institute has a rich collection of 50,000 palm-leaf and paper manuscripts and 75,000 rare printed books in its library. The Institute has published 1 tabular alphabetical catalogue covering all the subjects. The manuscripts in the collection cover a wide range from philosophy, religion, epic,

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language, grammar to poetics and horoscopy.

The MOU with Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara University was signed on 18 May 2005. They have provided good storage for their collection. The preventive and curative conservation began as soon as the laboratory was set up.

Address:

V. Venkataramana Reddy
In-charge Director, Oriental Research Institute
Venkateswara University, Tirupati 517502, Andhra Pradesh
Tel: 0877 2249666(ext) 291 Fax: 0877 2226614

12. Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

The famous Salar Jung Museum houses some of the finest collections of art objects anywhere in the world. The Museum began its association with the Mission as an MCC in October 2003 for the conservation of manuscripts in Andhra Pradesh. This year nine institutes were provided with preventive and curative conservation treatment, covering both, palm leaf and paper manuscripts.

Address:

Director
Salarjung Museum, Salarjung Marg, Hyderabad 500002
Tel: 040 24523211/301 Fax: 040 24572558
Email: salarjung@hotmail.com

13. INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre, Bangalore

The INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre MCC began functioning from 23 September 2003. The MCC has conducted preventive conservation of manuscripts in several Institutes and also provided emergency treatment for manuscripts where necessary. It has a well-equipped laboratory with well-trained conservators in preventive and curative conservation.

Address:

S. Subbaraman
Director, INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation



Centre, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore 560 001

Tel: 080 2250418 Fax: 080 226 3424

Email: ickpac@vsnl.net

14. Government Museum, Chennai

The Government Museum began its collaboration with the Mission as an MCC, in August 2004. Apart from the existing laboratory facilities, the MCC was equipped with additional facilities and more staff was appointed. It has in the year 2006 conducted preventive conservation on 11694 folios of palm leaf manuscripts and 4244 folios of palm leaf manuscripts were given curative conservation treatment.

Address:

V. Jeyaraj
Government Museum
Egmore, Chennai 600008
Tel: 044 28193238
Email: jeyarajv@rediffmail.com

15. Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

The MOU was signed with Karnataka State Archives in August 2004. They have a full-fledged conservation laboratory. They have extended their assistance in preventive conservation and curative conservation activities to 8 institutions and have also conducted 8 workshops on conservation.

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Address:

Mrs. Usha Suresh
Director, Room No 9, Ground Floor
Vidhan Sabha
Karnataka State Archives
Bangalore – 1
Tel: 22254465 / Fax. 2235257
Email: Dir_Archives@mail.kar.nic.in
Website: <http://kannadasiri.kar.nic.in/archives>

16. Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur

Built up by the successive dynasties of Nayaks and Marathas of Thanjavur, The Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library is perhaps one among the few medieval libraries that exists in the world. The Library contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, books, maps and painting on all aspects of arts, culture and literature. The Library has a rich collection of manuscripts numbering about 59,000 in Sanskrit, Tamil, Marathi and Telugu including several illustrated manuscripts, which reflect the history and culture of South India. A total number of 24,432 titles are catalogued and in active use. The scripts used for Sanskrit language are Grantha, Devanagari, Telugu and Malayalam, Kannada and Oriya. Fourteen volumes of Descriptive Catalogues have been published by the Library so far.

An MCC was established at library, in October 2003. The Library employs several indigenous methods of conservation and manuscript storage. This MCC in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Government Museum has conducted 2 workshops and publicity programmes. The MCC has conducted preventive conservation activities on both palm leaf and paper manuscripts covering 8 institutions in 2006.

Address:

P. Perumal
Project Coordinator, Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur 613009, Tamil Nadu
Tel: 04362 234107/ 230206, Fax: 04362 233568/230857

17. Mural Painting Conservation Research and Training Centre, Trippunithura Palace, Cochin

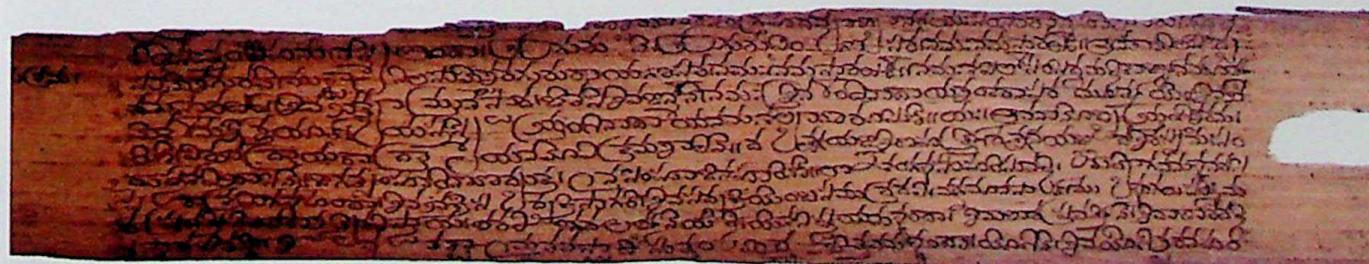
The Mural Painting Conservation Research and Training Centre, Trippunithura, Cochin Palace is a repository of art objects, paintings and historical data. The Centre began collaborating with the Mission in July 2004. With a staff of five, the Centre has identified 19 institutions and private collections for preventive conservation and carried preventive conservation activities on 63733 folios of paper manuscripts.

Address:

Arvind Kumar
INTACH- Ernakulam, Hill Palace Museum Premises
Trippunithura, Ernakulam 682 301, Kerala
Tel: 09447451486 Fax: 0484 2780202
Email: mcrthrissur@rediffmail.com

18. Regional Conservation Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram

The Regional Conservation Laboratory was established under the Department of Archaeology in the year 1978 based on the scheme prepared by the Scientific Advisor, Department of Culture, and Government of India. The laboratory is one of the well-equipped laboratories in India capable of undertaking conservation projects on a variety of materials



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such as stone, metal, mural painting etc. Deteriorated objects brought from various Museums are subjected to scientific examination and treatment at the Laboratory. They include organic as well as inorganic materials such as manuscripts, stones, metals etc. In some projects the laboratory collaborates with the National Research Laboratory for Conservation, Lucknow, the National Museum, New Delhi, the Indian Council of Conservation Institute and so on. The Regional Conservation Laboratory is an Institutional Member of the Indian Association of the study of Conservation, New Delhi.

The MOU with the National Mission for Manuscripts was signed on 27 April 2006. They are carrying out the work on preventive as well as curative conservation simultaneously in several institutions all over southern Kerala. They have a well established laboratory of their own and also have trained conservators to carry out the work in several institutes.

Address:

Conservation Officer
 Regional Conservation Lab, Cotton Hill,
 Vazhuthacaud, Sasthamangalam.P.O
 Thiruvananthapuram. Pin.695 010
 Phone : 0471 - 27256351

19. The Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh

Tawang, world-renowned for its 400-year-old Buddhist Gopma, one of the biggest in India is an important centre of Buddhist learning. The gompa, also called the Galden Namgyal Lhatse, is a renowned Mahayana Monastery established in 1643-47 by Lodre Gyaltso, popularly called Meera Lama. The Gompa houses a beautifully gilded 8 metre high statue of the Buddha and a number of equally remarkable idols, thangkas and murals. The 3 storey, fortified monastery is over 140 square metres and has 65 residential buildings, chortens, lanes and by-lanes. The Dukhang (main assembly hall) has Buddha statues in various poses, while the Parkhang hall lodges the library, with a wealth of rare hand written and block-printed Thankas or manuscripts of revered books like 'Tangym', 'Kangyur' and 'Sungbum' and

a valuable collection of old scriptures mainly Kanjur and Tanjur numbering 850 bundles. Some of the manuscripts have been penned in gold.

The Tawang Monastery signed an MOU with the Mission on 1 August 2006.

Address:

Lama Lopsang Tampa,
 Secretary, Tawang Monastery
 Tawang Distt. Arunachal Pradesh
 Ph. (O) 03794-223286/223476/ 9436051206 (M)

20. Manipur State Archives, Imphal

The practice of maintaining records had been in vogue with the advent of art of writing in Manipur. The official records were maintained in the royal court. Individuals also used to maintain private records. The Manipur State Archives was established in March, 1982, under the directorate of social welfare, arts & culture Government of Manipur. The aims and objects of the State Archives office is to concentrate in a single repository all the non-current records both confidential and non-confidential as well as the private records. The Manipur State Archives accessioned the records under the following categories i.e. Public Records, Private Records, Historical Manuscripts both in Archaic Meitei & Bengali Scripts and Rare books of the library.

In its valuable collection the Manipur State Archives also has the Parawanas and orders of the Manipur Maharaja & the Political Agent in Manipur from the year, 1891 to 1947 and the Diaries of the Manipur Political Agents and Assistant Political Agent (1886-1947). The State Archives collected and preserved many valuable historical manuscripts in Archaic Manipuri and few manuscripts of Bengali scripts.

The Manipur State Archives signed an MOU with the Mission on 24 April 2006.

Address:

Dr. K. Sushila
 Director, Manipur State Archives, Washington Likoi
 Imphal - 795 001, Manipur
 Tel /Fax - 0385 - 2222813 / M- 09436021755

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21. Sri D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute, Arrah, Bihar

The "Jain Sidhanta Bhawan" better known as the "Central Jain Oriental Library, Arrah" was founded in 1903 by Sri Devakumar Jain, a great scholar and philanthropist. The Library has a valuable collection of manuscripts from all over the world. There are 3,179 palm leaf manuscripts, 3,500 paper manuscripts which are at least 500 years old. Most prominent among the manuscript collection are the illustrated Jain Ramayana and the Bhaktamira. There are nearly 200 paintings in Jain Ramayana alone in excellent Mogul and Rajput styles.

Besides the manuscripts, the library has 9,000 published books on religion, philosophy, history, and literature in nearly all the Indian and some foreign languages. There is also a collection of old paintings, pieces of art and old coins. Among the paintings on mythological subjects, treatment of the 16 dreams of Chandragupta, the 16 Tirthankars and Pawapuri temple stand out.

D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute signed an MOU with the Mission on 24 April 2006

Address:

Ajay Kumar Jain
Sri D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute
Devashram, Mahadeva Road, Arrah, Bihar 802301

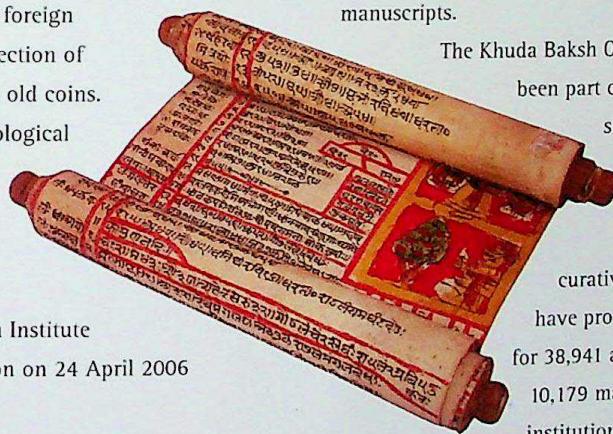
22. Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna

One of the National Libraries of India the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library was established in 1891 by Khuda Bakhsh Khan out of his personal collection of a few manuscripts. It acquired the status of an "Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament in 1969.

The Library is recognized the world over for its rich collection of invaluable manuscripts, rare printed books, many miniatures and paintings of Hindu pantheon and original paintings of Mughal, Rajput, Turkish and Iranian

schools. It has special manuscripts like an inch-wide Quran. It also contains the only books rescued from the plunder of the University of Cordoba in Spain. It is

There are some other rare manuscripts in the collection at Khuda Bakhsh, including the Jehangir-Nama, Shah-Namah, Al-Quran, Tarikh-i-Khandan-i-Timuriya and Kitab-ul-Hashaishh. There are many examples of Persian calligraphy and rare coins. Many expensive and rare manuscripts have come from places like Alexandria, Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, Arabia, etc. There are facilities for research work concerning the Muslim period in Oriental studies. The Institution has published 39 volumes of Descriptive Catalogues covering 300 illustrated manuscripts. The Khuda Bakhsh MRC concentrates mainly on documenting Urdu, Arabic, and Persian manuscripts.



The Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library has been part of the Mission's MCC network since September 2003. They have identified partner centres and are extending assistance in preventive and curative conservation activities. They have provided preventive conservation for 38,941 and curative conservation for 10,179 manuscripts folios covering 4 institutions in 2006.

Address:

Imtiaz Ahmed
Director, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library
Ashok Rajpath, Patna 800 004, Bihar
Tel: 0612 2300209 Fax: 0612 2300209
Email: pat_kbopl@data1.in

23. Manuscript Library, University of Calcutta, Kolkata

The manuscript section of Calcutta University, Kolkata, has been in existence right from the inception of the University in 1857. In 1990, the Manuscript Library of Calcutta University became a full-fledged unit of the University under the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic). The Library has

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a collection of more than 42,000 manuscripts including quite a few on palm-leaves, including 20,000 in Sanskrit, 12,000 in Tibetan and Bengali and also several Persian and Arabic manuscripts. They are in different languages such as Sanskrit, Tibetan, Bangla, Oriya, Maithili, Pali, Arabic and Persian, and in scripts like Bengali, Oriya, Gaudi, Newari, Malayalam and Maithili. Some manuscripts are wrought in gold and silver lettering.

The Manuscript Library joined hands with Mission as an MCC on 26 May 2005. The Manuscript Library MCC has evolved a good system of storage of their collection. A space has been allocated for laboratory and 2 staff members have been appointed. They have already identified their partner centres and are extending their assistance in preventive conservation to various institutions.

Address:

Ratna Basu
In-charge, Manuscript Library, Hardinge Building, 1st Floor 87/1, College Street, Senate House, University of Calcutta Kolkata 700073, West Bengal
Tele-fax: 033 22413763, /22413222

24. INTACH Orissa Art Conservation Centre, Bhubaneswar

The INTACH ICI Orissa Art Conservation Centre started functioning in September 2003 with a staff of 14 conservators. It is fast developing as a specialized Centre for palm leaf manuscript conservation. Through the year the Centre has provided assistance to six institutions in providing preventive and curative conservation. It has in 2006 provided conservation activities to both palm leaf and paper manuscripts, over 20,02,321 palm leaf folios have received preventive conservation through this MCC.

Address:

Mallika Mitra
INTACH ICI Orissa Art Conservation Centre
Orissa State Museum Premises, Bhubaneswar 751 014, Orissa
Tel: 0674 2432638/ Fax: 0674 2432638
Email: iciaoacc@sancharnet.in

25. AITIHYA, Bhubaneswar

The MOU with AITIHYA was signed on 11 May 2005. This MCC has a 4 member team to look after conservation activities. In 2006 they have given preventive conservation treatment to 8700 folios of manuscripts. They have also assisted institutions with curative conservation of manuscripts.

Address:

Prasad Harichandan
Chairman, AITIHYA, A/L-5
Bhimtangi Housing Board Colony
Phase-I, Bhubaneswar 751 002, Orissa
Tel: 0680 2296131

26. Sambalpur University, Burla, Orissa

Sambalpur University started functioning as an MCC from August 2004. A conservation laboratory was set up with basic infrastructure and basic chemicals. They have identified their Manuscript Conservation Partner Centres. The emphasis was on preventive conservation and in 2006 they provided preventive conservation to 7920 folios of palm leaf manuscripts.

Address:

P.K. Nayak
Project Coordinator, Sambalpur University Library
Sambalpur University, Burla 768001, Orissa
Tel: 0663 2432061/ 2430329.

27. Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Guahati University, Guwahati

In 1982 the Guahati University Library was renamed as Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library after its first Vice Chancellor. Established primarily to enhance and support the different research programs carried out by the University, The Guahati University Library started its functioning in 1948. The Library has acquired more than 4,500 manuscripts on different subjects including 5 illustrated manuscripts of the Ramayana, Bhagwata and Lavakusha Yuddha among others. The collection of manuscripts in the repository is written

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mostly in agaru bark. They also have immense historic and cultural value as representing the region of their origin.

The MCC signed an MOU with the Mission on 3 November 2003. The institution conducted 5 outreach campaigns-cum-workshops in 2006. Preventive conservation work was carried out in several institutes. It is the only MCC which in the year 2006 provided both, preventive and curative conservation treatment to a large number of Sanchipat Tulapaty manuscripts.

Address:

Bhupen Goswamee
Librarian, Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library
Guwahati University, Gopinath Bardolai Nagar
Guwahati 781014, Assam
Tel: 0361 2570529/2674438
Fax: 0361 2570133
Email: kkhl@sancharnet.in

28. Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur

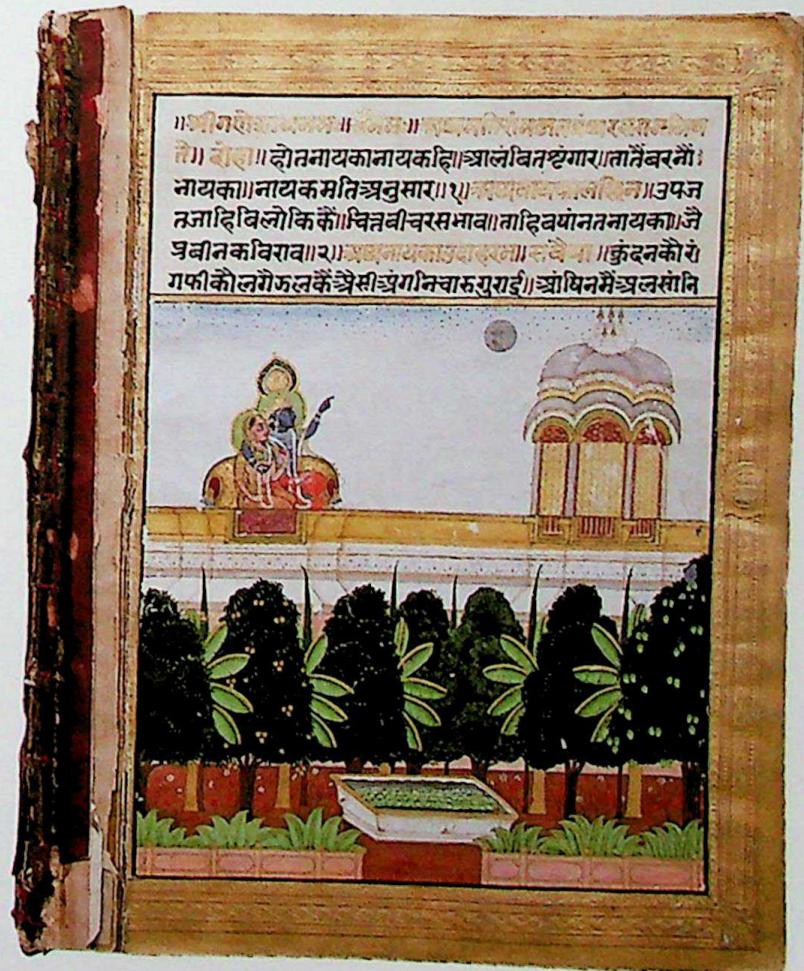
With a view to explore, collect, preserve, edit and publish the ancient literature in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsa and Hindi-Rajasthani available in Rajasthan and adjacent areas, the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute an initiative of the Government of Rajasthan, was established as the Sanskrit Mandal in 1950 and extended as a full-fledged department in 1954.

It has a large reference library comprising of 26,713 rare titles and 6,000 periodicals. It has 7 branch repositories at Bikaner, Jaipur, Bharatpur, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur and Alwar. It has a collection of 119,830 manuscripts including 1,011 illustrated manuscripts on different subjects like the Veda, Dharmashastra, Itihasa, Purana, Tantra, Mantra, Darshana, Jyotisha and Ayurveda. The Institute has published 130 Descriptive Catalogues and published critical editions of more than 200 important texts.

The rich manuscript collection of the Rajasthan

Oriental Research Institute include miniature versions with Pala, Western Indian, Rajput, Kangra and Jammu and Kashmir schools of painting on palm leaf, birch-bark, paper, wood and cloth. There are excellent calligraphy texts like Dvipatha, Tripatha and Panchpatha. Some unique specimens are Arsha-Ramayana, Gita Govinda (Mewar School), illuminated Kalpasutra of VS 1485, Buddhist manuscript Arya Mahavidya, and an illustrated Bhagavata among others. An authenticated manuscript of Prithviraj Raso from Dharnoj village of Gujarat and a number of manuscripts written profusely in gold ink are also worth mentioning.

RORI, MCC began working with the Mission in October 2003. The MCC is primarily involved in preventive conservation and has a complete laboratory to support its activities. Preventive conservation was carried out in 16 institutions and 4248 manuscripts received preventive conservation treatment.



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Address:

F. C. Kalla
 Director, Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute
 P.W.D Road, Jodhpur 342011
 Rajasthan
 Tel: 0291 2430244

29. Digambar Jain Pandulipi Samrakshan Kendra, Jaipur, Rajasthan

The Digambar Jain Pandulipi Samrakshan Kendra signed an MOU with Mission on 12 November 2004. This MCC has got a very good collection of Jain manuscripts which are

in good condition and are stored properly. This Centre is actively involved in preventive conservation and has done 2 publicity campaigns to spread awareness about manuscripts and their preservation. They also extended their assistance in preventive conservation to various institutions and gave treatment to 6735 manuscript folios. They are also involved in curative conservation and have given curative treatment to 2184 paper manuscript folios.

Address:

Kamal Chand Sogani
 Director, Digambar Jain Pandulipi Samrakshan Kendra
 Jain Vidya Samsthan

Digambar Jain Nasim Bhattacharji
 Sawai Ramsingh Road
 Jaipur 302004, Rajasthan
 Tel: 0141 2385247.



30. Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad

Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, one of the largest treasure houses of manuscripts relating to Jainism was established by Muni Shri Punyavijayji and Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The L.D. Institute has a library consisting of nearly 45,000 printed books nearly 75,000 manuscripts including 500 illustrated manuscripts, covering a wide range of subjects, like the Vedas, agamas, Buddhist religion, tantra, systems of Indian philosophy, and poetics etc. The institution has

published 7 volumes of tabular catalogues, representing several languages like Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsa, Old Gujarati, Hindi and Rajasthani.

This MCC is furnished with a laboratory with basic infrastructure and two trained conservators are currently working with the MCC. They are at present providing preventive conservation to their own large collection of manuscripts.

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Address:

Jitendra Shah
 Director, Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology
 Navarangpur, Near Gujarat University
 Ahmedabad 380 009, Gujarat
 Tel: 079 6302463
 Email: ldii@ad1.vsnl.net.in

31. Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

Founded in 1917, in memory of Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar, the distinguished scholar, litterateur and one of the pioneers of scientific Indology in India, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute has nearly 20,000 manuscripts, covering a wide variety of subjects like religion, languages, Vedic literature, grammar, music, drama, purana, stotras, tantra, medicine and philosophical systems. The Archives contains copies of Farsi translation of the Gita and Yogavasishtha, made by Dara Shikoh 340 years ago, a copy of Vishnu Purana translated into Persian by a Kashmiri Pundit, a manuscript relating to horse-breeding written by Qazi Hasan Iftakhān 390 years ago, and an original manuscript bearing the seal of the royal library of Emperor Jehangir.

Thirty-five volumes of Descriptive Catalogues (covering over 12,000 manuscripts from the Government Manuscripts Library) have been published so far. Microfilming of about over a million folios (including those of about 4,000 uncatalogued manuscripts) was carried out at the Institute, under the auspices of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, and completed recently.

The MCC at BORI has engaged conservators, who well trained in preventive conservation. Preventive conservation work covering 12500 manuscript folios has been carried out in 9 institutes. Curative conservation treatment was conducted on 170 folios.

Address:

M.G. Dhadphale
 Hon. Secretary
 Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

Deccan Gymkhana
 Pune 411037, Maharashtra
 Tel: 020 25656932
 Fax: 020 25661362
 Email: boril@vsnl.net

32. Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Ujjain

Scindia Oriental Research Institute of the Vikram University, Ujjain was established in 1957. Apart from the Scindia Oriental Research Institute, the University also has an archaeological museum and an art gallery, which are major repositories of heritage items and artifacts.

The manuscript wealth in Scindia Oriental Research Institute is of all languages, Sanskrit being the most predominant. The Scindia Oriental Institute has a rare collection of 18,000 manuscripts in paper, old palm leaf and bark leaf (bhurja patra). The subjects are wide-ranging, from ancient philosophy, sciences, religion, language, grammar and the arts. There are some rare manuscripts of heritage value such as the illustrated manuscript of the Srimad-Bhagavatam set in gold and silver, illustrated manuscripts exemplifying the old Rajput and Mughal style paintings, among others.

The Scindia Oriental Research Institute signed an MOU with the Mission on 15 June 2006. Last year the emphasis of the MCC was only on Preventive Conservation. In 2006 the facilities were upgraded and curative conservation too was taken up by the MCC. It has provided both curative and preventive conservation treatment to 3592 palm leaf folios.

Address:

Balkrishna Sharma
 Director
 Scindia Oriental Research Institute
 Vikram University
 Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
 Tel: 0734 2515400
 Fax: 0734 2514276
 Email: sorimrc@yahoo.com

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Activity Report - 2006-2007

Sl. No	Name of the Institution	Workshops Conducted	Preventive Conservation	
			Mss.	Folio
1.	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi	2	Paper 501	Paper 1900
2.	Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune		Paper 752	Paper 12500
3.	INTACH-ICI Orissa Art Conservation Centre, Bhubaneswar		Paper 1	Paper 38
			Palm leaf 1621	Palm leaf 2002321
4.	ICI Conservation Centre, Rampur Raza Library, Rampur		Paper 8	Paper 4506
5.	Indian Council of Conservation Institutes, Lucknow	2	Paper 13018	Paper 122194
6.	INTACH- Chitrakala Parisath Art Conservation Centra,			
7.	Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad		Palm leaf 345	Palm leaf 4623
			Paper 1678	Paper 164944
8.	Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur		Paper 4248	
9.	Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna		Paper 2030	Paper 38941
10.	Tamilnadu Govt. Museum, Chennai		Palm leaf 106	Palm leaf 11694
11.	Mahavir Digambar Jain Pandulipi Sanrakshan Kendra, Jaipur	2	Paper 371	Paper 6735
12.	Sambalpur University, Sambalpur		Palm leaf 74	Palm leaf 7920
13.	Lalbai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad			
14.	Krishnakanta Handiqui Library, Guwahati	5	Palm leaf 8	Palm leaf 770
			Sanchipat Tulapaty 365	Sanchipat Tulapaty 6215
			Paper 317	Paper 6727
15.	Manuscript Library, University of Calcutta Kolkata			
16.	Dept. of Language and Culture, Shimla		Paper 210	Paper 37500
17.	Oriental Research Institute, Sri Venkateswar University			
18.	Scindia Oriental Research Institute, Ujjain		Palm leaf 35	Palm leaf 3592

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Curative Conservation		No. of Institution Covered	Storage Re- organization
Mss.	Folio		
Paper 48	Paper 3549	4	1
Paper 20	Paper 1700	9	
Paper 195	Paper 5390	6	
Palm leaf 233	Palm leaf 11713		
Paper 5	Paper 2782		
Paper 108	Paper 15082	5	
Palm leaf 288	Palm leaf 5192	9	
Paper 446	Paper 38088		
		16	
Paper 82	Paper 10179	4	
Palm leaf 12	Palm leaf 4244		
Paper 76	Paper 2184		
Palm leaf	Palm leaf		
Sanchipat Tulapaty 21	Sanchipat Tulapaty 585	9	
Paper 7	Paper 3393		
Paper 60	Paper 4350		
Palm leaf 35	Palm leaf 3592		4

Manuscript Conservation Centres

Sl. No	Name of the Institution	Workshops Conducted	Preventive Conservation	
			Mss.	Folio
19.	Mural Painting Conservation Research and Training Centre, Thrissur		Paper 1074	Paper 63733
20.	Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh		Paper 3	Paper 336
21.	Vrindavan Research Institute, Vrindavan	1	Paper 3256	Paper 48468
22.	Tanjavur Maharaja Sarfoji Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur	2	Palm leaf 493	Palm leaf 24755
			Paper 1	Paper 3
23.	Karnataka State Archive Bangalore	8	Palm leaf 1070	Palm leaf 160514
			Paper 203	Paper 50255
24.	Aithiya, Bhubaneswar		Paper 80	Paper 8700
25.	Nagarjuna, Buddhist Foundation, Gorakhpur		Paper 633	Paper 3379
26.	Uttanchal Institute for Conservation Research and Training, Nainital	NEW MCC		
27.	Tawang Monastery, A.P.	NEW MCC		
28.	Manipur	NEW MCC		
29.	Arrah	NEW MCC		
30.	Hoshiarpur	NEW MCC		
31.	RCL Tiruvaipuram			
32.	Central Library, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi- 5	NEW MCC		
TOTAL		32	22	Palm leaf 3752
				Palm leaf 416189
				Paper 28383
				Paper 558780

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National Empowered Committee

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 13. Dr. P.V. Krishna Bhat, Ex Coordinator, IGNCA Bangalore Field Office
 14. Mission Director, National Mission for Manuscripts

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- Under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Culture
1. Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India
– Chairman
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 3. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
 4. Prof. V. Kutumba Sastri, Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi
 5. Prof. M. V. Nair, Director, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property
 6. Dr. M. H. Makhdoomi, Retd Director, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir
 7. Shri Chamu Krishna Sastri, Samskrita Bharati
 8. Mission Director, National Mission for Manuscripts

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- Under the chairmanship of the Financial Advisor, Ministry of Culture
1. Financial Advisor, Ministry of Culture
 2. Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
 3. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
 4. Director, Finance, Ministry of Culture
 5. Mission Director, National Mission for Manuscripts

Project Monitoring Committee

- Under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
1. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
 2. Prof. V. Kutumba Sastri, Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi
 3. Prof. H. K. Satapathy, Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati
 4. Shri Chamu Krishna Sastri, Samskrita Bharati
 5. Director, Ministry of Culture
 6. Dr. Imitiaz Ahmed, Director, Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna
 7. Dr. Jitendra Shah, Director, Lalbai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad
 8. Dr. Ravindra Panth, Director, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar
 9. Mission Director, National Mission for Manuscripts

National Nodal Agency for the Mission

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

Mission Directory

Mission Directory

Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Mission Director

D. K. Rana, Assistant Director

Survey and Post-Survey

Sanjukta Sunderason, Coordinator, Survey

Syed Shamshad Hussain, Assistant Coordinator, Post Survey

Nrusingh Kar, Assistant Coordinator, Post Survey

Conservation

K. K. Gupta, Consultant Coordinator

Abdur Rashid, Conservator

Kirti Srivastava, Conservator

Neeraja Gopi, Conservator

Vaibhav Chauhan, Conservator

Digitization

Anurag Arora, Coordinator

Bishvaranjan Mallik, Programmer

Sharmishta Sen, Assistant Programmer

Muhammad Mansoor Akhtar, Software developer

Pranaya Kumar Mishra, Software developer

Outreach

Kanika Singh, Assistant Coordinator

Rashmi Singh, Assistant Coordinator

Neha Joshi, Intern

Research and Publication

Neha Paliwal, Coordinator

Mrinmoy Chakravarti, Assistant Editor

Sanghamitra Basu, Assistant Coordinator

Documentation

Satkari Mukhopadhyaya, Consultant

Ganesh Prasad Panda, Coordinator

Dileep Kar, Assistant Coordinator

Prabhat Kumar Das, Documentation

Assistant

Sridhar Barik, Documentation Assistant

Shiv Prasad Tripathi, Documentation Assistant

Naval Kishore Chaudhary, Documentation Assistant

Avadh Kishore Chaudhary, Documentation Assistant

Abdur Razique, Documentation Assistant

Ramavatar Sharma, Documentation Assistant

Shishir Kumar Apdhi, Documentation Assistant

Lakshmidhar Mallik, Documentation Assistant

Lakshmidhar Panigrahi, Documentation Assistant

Pramita Mishra, Documentation Assistant

Lata Gohri, Data Entry Operator

Mamta Lekhwar, Data Entry Operator

Monika Kalra, Data Entry Operator

Sheeja T, Data Entry Operator

Deepti Rawat, Data Entry Operator

Laxmi Rawat, Data Entry Operator

Sudha Sundariyal, Data Entry Operator

Mukesh Janotra, Data Entry Operator

Babita, Data Entry Operator

Accounts and Office Support

Mr. Swamy, Sr. Accounts Officer

K.K. Thapliyal, Jr. Accounts Officer

Reena Rawat, Personal Assistant

Deepa Chopra, Personal Assistant

Pawan Kumar Ghai, Driver

Khushvinder Singh, Peon

Kamla Rawat, Peon

Sunil Kumar, Peon

Amit Vaidh, Peon

Ramesh Gogini



Manuscript Resource Centres

North Zone

1. Dr. Kockak Namgyal

Principal

Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar
Leh (Laddak)-194001
Tel/Fax: 01982-264391
Mr. Tsering Muthup (AO) - 09419177543

2. Shri S. K. A. Quadri

Director

Directorate of State Archaeology, Archives & Museum
Stone Building, Old Secretariat
Srinagar - 190001, Jammu and Kashmir
Tel: 0194-2472361 (O)/0194-2429287 (R)/(M) 09419000213

3. Dr. Sudarshan Vashistha

Coordinator

Himachal Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages,
Culture and Languages Cliff- End Estate, Shimla- 171001
Phone: 0177-2623149, Fax :0177-2624330

4. Shri Lobsang Shastri

Chief Librarian

Library of Tibetan Works and Archives
Gangchen Kyisong, Dharamshala - 176215
Himachal Pradesh.
Ph: 01892- 222467/226095
E-mail: lobshastri@gov.tibet.net

5. Dr. Surendra Mohan Mishra

Project Coordinator

Reader, Department of Sanskrit Pali and Prakrit
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra-136119
Tel: 01744-238410/238196/238629 - ex. 2504, 2505
Tel: Res- 01744 238567, D.-97, K.U. Campus

6. Prof. G.D. Bharadwaj

Chairperson/Co-ordinator

Viswesvarananda Viswabandhu
Institute of Sanskrit & Indological Studies

Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur-146021, Punjab

Tel: 01882-2221002, Tel-Fax - 01882-247475

Mob- 09417308242, e-mail: Krishna_ar@rediffmail.com

7. Dr. Savita Mohan

Secretary

Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy
Near Zila Panchayat Office, Haridwar -249401
Tel: 01334 265099/265101/262146, M- 09412008090
director@razalibrary.com

8. Dr. W.H. Siddiqui

OSD/Director

Rampur Raza Library
Hamid Manzil, Rampur - 244 901, Uttar Pradesh.
Tel. : 0595-2325045(O) /0595-2353554(R)
Fax: 0595-2340548, Email: whsiddiqi@rediffmail.com

9. Prof. Ganga Dhar Panda

Project Coordinator HOD, Dept of Purana
Sampurnananda Sanskrit Visvavidyalaya
Varanasi 221001. Tel: 0542 -2205122(R)
M- 9415222940 Tel: 0542-204089 / 204213
Fax: 0542-206617

Districts: Gajipur, Chandauli, Azamgarh, Jaunpur,
Sultanpur, Sant Ravidass Nagar, Deoria, Gorakhpur,
Kushinagar, Pratapgarh, Balia and Varanasi

10. Dr. Brij Mohan Chaturvedi

Coordinator

Vrindavan Research Institute,
Raman Reti Marg, Vrindavan-281121
Tel: 0565 - 2540628 Fax - 2540576
Email: vrivbn@sancharnet.in

11. Dr. Bhawani Shankar Shukla

Project Coordinator

Akhila Bharatiya Sanskrit Parishad
Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001
Tel: 0522 2223962

Manuscript Resource Centres

12. Shri Mohinder Singh

Director

Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan

Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi-1

Tel: 23363510

13. Prof. J.K. Godiyal

Project Coordinator

Department of Sanskrit

HNB Garwal University, Pauri Garhwal, Uttranchal

Tel: 01346 257134

14. K.M. Hindi Institute of Hindi Studies and Linguistics,

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Paliwal Park, Agra

South Zone

15. Prof. V. Venkatraman Reddy

Director

Oriental Research Institute

Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517 502

Andhra Pradesh

Fax: 0877-2226614, Tel: 0877-2249666 ex - 291

Mob- 09849121316

Districts:East Godavari, West Godavari, Vijayanagaram, Chitoor, Nellore, Guntur, Kakinada, Krishna, Macchalipatnam, Prakasam, Cuddapah, Ananthapur, Vishakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Kurnool,

16. Prof. Jayadheer Tirumal Rao

Director,

A.P. Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute, Jama-I-Osmania, Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad - 500007, Andhra Pradesh.

Telefax- 040 23220236 (h), Cell- 09440534852

Districts:Hyderabad, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Meddak Sangareddi, Nalgonda, Rangareddi,

17. Shri T. Ganesan

French Institute of Pondichery

11, Saint Louis Street, PB-33, Pondicherry-605001

Tel: 0413-2334168 Ext-123, Fax: 0413-2339534

Email:ganesan@ifpindia.org

18. Dr. H.P. Devaki

Project Coordinator

Oriental Research Institute

University of Mysore

Kautilya Circle,Mysore - 570005, Karnataka

Tel: 0821 -2419267 /2420331 R) 2543131(Dr. Devaki)

Mob- 09448034281

E-mail: mrcmys@yahoo.com, drmyna@yahoo.com

Email: orimys@yahoo.com

Districts :Mysore, Chamrajnagar, Kodagu, Mandya

19. Dr. Veeresh S. Badiger

HoD, Manusciptology

Kannada University

Hampi, Vidyaranya - 583 276

Hospet Tq. Dt- Bellary, Karnataka

Tel: 08394 441335, 441337 Registrar

Tel fax - 441334

Email: registrar@kavihampi.org

(Districts: Belgaun, Dharwar, Bijapur, Bagalcot, Gadak, Koppol, Haveri, Bellari, Raichur, Gulbarga, Bidar)

20. Shri M. Udayraj

Executive Officer,

National Institute of Prakrit Studies & Research,

Shrutakevali Education Trust (Regd.)

Shravanabelagola - 573 135

Hassan Distt., Karnataka

Ph.: 08176-257132, 257228/ 9448006139/

08172-233242(Res.)

Districts:Hassan, Dak, Kannada, Chikmangalur, Chitradurga, Uttara Kannada, Madikeri)

Manuscript Resource Centres

21. Prof. Keladi Gunda Jois,

Keladi Museum & Historical Research,
P.O. Keladi, Sagar Tq, - 577401
Simoga Dt., Karnataka. Tel: 08183 260140

Districts: Simoga, Devangere

22. Mr. Ramachandran

Mahabharata Samshodhan Pratishtan
1/E, 3rd Cross, Girinagar 1st Phase
Bangalore-560 085
Tel: 080 26422387

Districts : Bangalore, Tumkur, Udupi

23. Mr P. Perumal.

Project Coordinator
Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library
Thanjavur-613009, Tamil Nadu
Tel: 04362-234107 (library)/230206/
Fax: 04362-233568/ 230857

Districts : Thnajavur, Trichi, Pudukkot, Madurai, Sivagangai,
Virudhnagar, Thiru, Kanvyakumari, Ramanathapuram,
Dindigul, Theni, Tuticurin

24. Dr. V. Arasu,

Professor & Head,
Department of Tamil Literature
University of Madras, Marina Campus,
Chennai – 600 005
Tel. (resi.) 55374769

25. Dr. V. Shrinivasulu

Project Coordinator
Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati Viswa Mahavidyalaya
Deemed University, Enathur, Kanchipuram – 631561
VC – 264308, Fax -224305

Districts: Kanchipuram, Chenklapute, Tiruvannamalai,
Vellore, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvallaore

26. Dr. P. Vishalakshy

Head of the Department
Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library
University of Kerala, Kariavattom
Thiruvananthapuram-695585, Kerala
Tel: 0471-2418421(O)/ 0471-2559085(R)
Mob- 09387828502
Fax: 0471-2302898
Email: keralauniversity@vsnl.com
visalakshy@keralaonline.com

Districts: Thiruvananthapuram, Kallam, Pathanamthitta,
Alappuzah, Kottayam, Kochi, Idukki

27. Dr. Ramanunni

Thunchan Memorial Trust
Thunchan Paramba, Tirur – 676101
Dt – Mamlapuram, Kerala
Tel: 0494 2422213/ 2429666
Mob- 09447767164
Email: thunchan@vsnl.com

Districts: Kasargod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kazikode, Mallapuram,
Palakkad, Trissur,

East Zone

28. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

Director
Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library
Ashok Rajpath, Patna – 800 004 Bihar
Ph: 0612- 2300209 (O) 0612 – 2301507®
Fax – 2300209
Email: kblibpat@sancharnet.in

29. Prof . Kulananda Jha

Pro-Vice Chancellor
Kameswar Singh Darbanga Sanskrit University
Kameswar Nagaram, Darbhanga – 846 004 Bihar
Tel/fax: 06272 – 222608/ (O) 06272 22138
(R - 24736809431450632(M) / 9431627746 (Pro.VC)

Manuscript Resource Centres

30. Dr. Ravindra Panth

Director

Dr. Dipankar Lama

Coordinator, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara,

(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India), Nalanda – 803111 Bihar

Tel: 06112 281897/281820/281672 Fax: 06112 281820

31. Dr. Ajay Kumar Jain

Sri Dev Kumar Jain Oriental Research Institute,

Devashram, Mahadeva Road,

Arrah, Bihar – 802 301

809, Ashiana Plaza, Budh Marg, Patna – 800001

Tel: 0612 2352285(R) M- 09334120289

32. Prof. Ratna Basu

In charge, Manuscript Library

Hardinge Building, 1st Floor, 87/1, College Street

Senate House, University of Calcutta,

Kolkata-700073. Telefax: 033-22413763 / 22413222(O)/

033-24148840(R) /(M) 9433021019

33. Dr. C. B. Patel

Superintendent

Orissa State Museum

Museum Building, Bhubaneswar

Orissa Telefax: 0674-2431597(0)

0674-2430870 ® / (M) 9437090569

cbpatelosm@redif.com

Districts:Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Baudh, Puri, Khorda, Cuttack, Nuapara, Jagatsingpur, Phulbani, Kendrapara

34. Dr. Sadananda Dikshita

Hon. Director

Sanskrit Academy of Research for Advanced Society

Through Vedic & Allied Tradition of India (SARASVATI),

Sarasvati Vihar, Barpada, Bhadrak – 756 113 Orissa.

Tel: 06784 261690

M: 09861233374

Districts:Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Balesore, Bhadrak, Baragarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Anugul, Balangir and Sonepur

35. Shri Bhupen Goswami

Librarian, Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library

Gauhati University, Gopinath Bardolai Nagar,

Guwahati – 781014 Assam

Tel: 0361 – 2570529, 2674438 (O) M- 09435116920

2570227 ®/ Fax: 0361- 2570133

Email: kkhl@sancharnet.in, kkhlgu@yahoo.com

36. Dr. K. Sushila

Director

Manipur State Archives

Washinglom Likoi, Imphal - 795 001 Manipur

Tel /Fax – 0385 – 2222813 / M- 09436021755

37. Mr. Utpal Das

Gurucharan College, Silchar, Assam – 788 004

Tel: 03842 264257 M- 09435073087

Districts:Dhemaji, Tinsukhia, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Sonitpur,

Nagao

West Zone

38. Mrs. Veena Lahoti

Director

Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute

P.W.D. Road, Jodhpur – 342011, Rajasthan

Tel: 0291-2430244(O), 0291-2644956(R) O P Sharma

39. Shri Jitubhai Shah

Director

Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology

Navarangpur, Near Gujarat University

Ahmedabad -380 009, Gujarat

Tel: 079- 6302463 (O)/ 2868739 (R)/ (M) 9825800126

Email: ldii@ad1.vsnl.net.in / jitendrabshah@yahoo.co. /

sambodhi@sify.com

Manuscript Resource Centres

40. Prof. M.G. Dhadphale

Hony. Secretary

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute
Deccan Gymkhana, Pune-411 037
Tel: 020- 25656932(O) 020- 24226854 (R) M - 09890198448
Email: bori1@vsnl.net

Districts:Pune, Solapur, Latur, Osmanabad, Beed, Dhule,
Lalgaon, Nashik, Mumbai, Raigarh

41. Dr. Pankaj Chandey

Vice Chancellor (Mob-09890303803)

C.G. Vijay Kumar

Coordinator

Kavikulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University
Baghla Bhawan, Sitalwadi
Manda Road, Ramtek – 441106
Tel.: 0712-531298/560992 2808094/2560992
Mob- 09423600804
Dr. madhusudan - 09860529642

Districts:Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Yeotmal,
Akola, Amaravati, Godhchirol, Buldhana,

42. Dr. Vijay Bedekar

Director

Institute for Oriental Studies (Shiva Shakti),
Dr. Bedekar's Hospital
Maharsi Karve Road, Naupara
Thane – West – 400602, Maharashtra

Districts:Thane, Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Sindhu Durg,

43. Prof. Saroja Bhate

Project Coordinator

Anandashram Samstha
22, Budhwar Peth, Pune – 411 002
Tel : 020 24226854(R) 020 24457119 (O)

Districts:Pune(Consulting with BORI), Satara, Ahmednagar,
Aurangabad, Sangli, Kolhapur, Parvani, Nanded, Jalna

44. Shri Hiralal Jain, Chairman

Shree Satshrut Prabhavana Trust
580, Juni Manekwadi
Bhavnagar- 364001
Tel: 0278 251 5005/242 3207

Shree Satshrut Prabhavana Trust,
50-D, Jyoti Marg, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur – 302004

Central Zone

45. Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma

Director

Scindia Oriental Research Institute
Vikram Universit
Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
Tel: 0734- 2515400 (O)2512856 (R)
Fax: 0734-2514276 (M) 09302227019

Districts:

46. Prof. R.B. Tripathy,

Head, Depts. Of Sanskrit,

Dr. Harisingh Gour University,
Gour Nagar, Sagar-470003
Madhya Pradesh
Telfax- 07582 264366, M -07425425260

Dr. A. K. Dash – 07582 2605454 M- 09827348716

Districts:Bhind, Morena, Gwalior, Datia, Sheopur, Shivpuri,
Chattarpur, Sagar

47. Dr. Anupam Jain

Secretary

Kund-Kund Jnanapith
584, M.G. Road, Tukoganj
Indore – 452 001,

D-14, Sudama Nagar,Indore-452009
(Ph.0731-2787790(Resi.)/94250-53822(Cell)/ 0731-254542

Manuscript Conservation Centres

North Zone

1. Dr. Kockak Namgyal

Director

Central Institute of Buddhist Studies

Choglamsar, Leh (Ladakh) - 194104

Tel. /Fax- 01982 - 264391

2. Ms. Ritu Jain

Conservation Assistant

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Janpath, New Delhi - 10001

3. Mr. Vinay Kumar Sharma

Project Coordinator, Language and Culture,

Block No. 395, SDA Complex, Kasumputy, Shimla- 171009

Tel.: 0177 2626614

Tel. 0177-2624330

(Fax.)/2623149/Mobile: 09418085595/ 2626614

4. Shri Lobsang Shastri

Chief Librarian

Library of Tibetan Works and Archives

Gangchen Kyisong, Dharamshala - 176215

Himachal Pradesh

Ph: 01892- 222467/226095, E-mail: lobshastri@gov.tibet.net

5. Mr. Anupam Sah

Uttranchal Institute for Conservation Research and Training,

Markandey House (near HMT Main Gate),

Rani Bagh, District - Nainital - 263 126, Uttranchal.

Tel. 05946-244242 Fax: 05946-244242

6. Dr. Umaramana Jha

Director

Coordinator

P. K. Goswami, Mob: 9358700718

Vrindavan Research Institute, Raman Reti, Vrindavan 281121

Tel: 0565 - 2540628 Fax - 2540576

Email: vrivbn@sancharnet.in

7. Dr. W. H. Siddiqui

OSD/Director

ICI Coservation Centre

Rampur Raza Library, Hamid Manzil

Rampur - 244901 U.P.

Tel: 0595 - 2325045 (0)/0595-2353554 ® Fax - 2340548

8. Shri Karunesh Shukla,

Nagarjuna Buddhist Foundation

18, Andhiari Bagh, Gorakhpur - 273 001

Phone: 0551-2242258/2249914

9. Ms. Mamta Misra

Conservator

Indian Council of Conservation Institutes

HIG- 44, Sector - E, Aliganj Scheme

Lucknow - 226024

Tel: 0522 - 2377814, 2376858

Fax - 2334324/e-mail: iccins@sancharnet.in

South Zone

10. Prof. Venkat Raman Reddy.

Oriental Research Institute,

Sri venkateswar University, Tirupati - 517507

11. Mr. Ahmed Ali

Project Coordinator

Salarjung Museum, Salarjung Marg

Hyderabad - 500002

Tel: 24523211/301 (0)/24572558

(fax) 24576443 (Per) 24576107 ®

E-mail: salarjung@hotmail.com

12. Sh. S. Subbaraman

Director

ICKPAC, INTACH Chitrakala Parishath

Art Conservation Centre, Kumara Krupa Road

Bangalore-560 001.

Tel: 080 2250418/ Fax: 080-226 3424

Email: ickpac@vsnl.net

Manuscript Conservation Centres

13. Dr. V. Jayaraj

Tamilnadu Government Museum

Egmore, Chennai - 600008

Tel: 044-28193238(O)

Mobile. 09381 008253

14. Mrs. Usha Suresh

Director

Room No 9, Ground Floor, Vidhan Saudha

Karnataka State Archives,Bangalore - 1

Tel : 22254465

Fax. 22352579

Email : Dir_Archives@mail.kar.nic.in

Website : <http://kannadasiri.kar.nic.in/archives>

15. Mr. P. Perumal

Project Coordinator

Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library

Thanjavur-613009

Tamil Nadu

Tel: 04362-234107 (library)/230206/

Fax:04362-233568/ 230857

16. Mr. Arvind Kumar

Mural Painting Conservation Research
and Training Centre

Hill Palace Musuem Premises

Tripunithura, Ernakulam

Pin code : 682 301

Kerala.

e-mail: mcrthrissur@rediffmail.com

Mobile : 09447451486

17. Mr. K.K. Mohanna Pillai

Conservation Officer

Regional Conservation Laboratory

Cotton Hill Road

Saothamangalam P.O.

Thiruvananathapuram-695010

Tel: 0471 2726351

M(9387802036)

East Zone

18. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

Director

Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library

Ashok Rajpath

Patna - 800 004 Bihar

Ph: 0612- 2300209, 2301507

Fax - 2300209

e-mail: kblibpat@sancharnet.in

19. Prof. Ratna Basu

In-charge,

Manuscript Library

University of Calcutta,

Harding Building, 1st Floor

87/1, College street,

Kolkata - 700073

20. Mrs. Mallika Mitra

INTACH ICI - Orissa Art Conservation Centre

Orissa State Museum Premises

Bhubaneswar - Orissa-751 014

Tel: 0674 - 2432638

Fax - 0674- 2432638

email: icioacc@sancharnet.in

21. Shri Prasad Harichandan

Chairman, AITIHYA

Arun Kumar Nayak

Project Coordinator, E.B.-799,

Badagada BRIT Colony

Bhubaneswar-751018

M:(09337767136)

22. Prof. P.K. Behra

Project Coordinator

Sambalpur University Library

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Fax: 0361- 2570133

Email: kkhl@sancharnet.in

(ii) kkhlgul@yahoo.com

West Zone

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Director

Anil Gupta, Coordinator

Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute

P.W.D. Road, Jodhpur – 342011

Tel: 0291 – 2430244(0) 0291- 2546008 ®

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Director

Digambar Jain Pandulipi Samrakshan Kendra

Jain Vidya Samsthan

Digambar Jain Nasim Bhattacharji

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Jaipur – 302004, Rajasthan

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Director

Lalbai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology

Navarangpur, Near Gujarat University

Ahmedabad -380 009, Gujarat

Tel: 079- 6302463 (O)/ 2868739 (R)/ M) 9825800126

Email: ldii@ad1.vsnl.net.in / jitendrabshah@yahoo.co.s
sambodhi@sify.com

31. Dr. M. G. Dhadphale

Hony. Secretary

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

Deccan Gymkhana, Pune-411 037

Tel: 020- 25656932(0) 020- 24226854 (R)

M - 09890198448

Email: boril@vsnl.net

Central Zone

32. Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma

Director

Scindia Oriental Research Institute

Ujjain

Phone : 0734-2515400

24. Lama Lopsang Tampa,
Secretary
Tawang Monastery,
Tawang Distt
Arunachal Pradesh
Ph. (O) 03794-223286-223476
Mobile – 9436051206

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